



WINDSOR CASTLE

Experts swoop on the wreckage

Page 9 and Simon Jenkins, page 14



RAVE REVIEW

The beat goes on — for 55 hours

Saturday Review, page 35



CREDO

Rabbi Romain on new neo-fascists

Page 5

TELEVISION & RADIO

Pages 18, 19
Weekend Times

THE TIMES

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50p

After Windsor, Vienna: another great European landmark goes up in flames



History in flames — a statue of Emperor Josef II of Austria in the shadow of the fire which engulfed parts of Vienna's imperial Hofburg Palace

Hofburg Palace ballrooms destroyed

BY SUE MASTERMAN
IN VIENNA

COINCIDENCE carries more conviction than conspiracy, none the less comparisons were inevitable as the Hofburg Palace in Vienna burned yesterday. Wrecks of smoke rose from the shell of the castle, the imposing 18th century Redoutensaal and its adjoining halls, once imperial ballrooms and now the venue for talks on European security and arms control. They were reduced to tinder.

"It's a catastrophe, a catastrophe," lamented Ernst Degasper, an artist, as he watched firefighters battle the blaze. "It's a piece of my heart that is burning," said his wife Theresa said, her eyes brimming with tears.

More than 400 policemen and women, some called from their beds, formed a human chain to bring part of the 196,000 national library collection to a safer part of the castle complex. The fire was already gnawing at the roof of the National Library next door, where the Fischer von Erlach reading room is one of Vienna's architectural treasures.

The fire was in the conference and ballrooms, where Soviet and American leaders signed the 1979 Salt-II arms treaty, and which is currently used for disarmament negotiations and by the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe talks. The Spanish Riding School was badly damaged, but no major works of art appear to have been lost.

The other threatened building was the Lippizaner stable complex, a 15th century architectural jewel connected to the burning building by an archway over the road. As suffocating smoke began to fill the stables where the 69 priceless Lippizaner stallions

Continued on page 2, col 7



A Lippizaner horse being led from the palace fire

Shares set new record

BY MICHAEL CLARK
AND COLIN NARBROUGH

SHARE prices on the London stock market continued their record-breaking run, ending the two-week trading account at an all-time high. The FT-SE 100 index closed last night at a new peak of 2,760.1.

Traders said the rally was prompted by an opening rise of more than 26 points in the Dow Jones industrial average on Wall Street following the resumption of business after Thursday's Thanksgiving day celebrations.

The surge on Wall Street, which lifted the London market to a record high, came after official US figures showed the biggest jump in personal incomes for almost a year and another substantial rise in consumer spending.

In Dublin, Albert Reynolds, the Irish prime minister, is to hold a cabinet meeting today to discuss the pressure on the punt, the market's prime target for devaluation. Dealers expect it to be devalued by 5 to 10 per cent.

Record high, page 22

UK condemned for Euro budget split

BY TOM WALKER
AND PHILIP WEBSTER

BRITAIN was last night accused of widening the gulf between the rich and poor countries of Europe after a day of talks in Brussels failed to break the deadlock over the EC's future spending.

The poorer countries roundly condemned British plans to rein in spending, which were described by Jacques Delors as betraying the spirit of Maastricht. But Britain found support from the northern states that have to contribute most to EC spending.

The dispute will now be left for the Edinburgh summit along with the vexed issue of Britain's budget rebate, adding to the already heavy burden on a British presidency trying to salvage some tangible achievement from next month's gathering.

Douglas Hurd insisted that the summit would be a success, saying it would be crowned with the twin achievements of an agreement on trade and the completion of the single market. "They will be very big achievements for Europe." But behind this

John Major will chair the summit of the European Community in Edinburgh next month with Britain facing the charge of fomenting a north-south economic divide within Europe

brave presidential gloss, Britain's partners were angry and divided after yesterday's meeting of Community foreign and finance ministers. "We have wasted all day talking about the budget proposals and we've got nowhere," Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Danish foreign minister, said.

Britain wants to slim down M. Delors' plans to boost the EC budget so that it would increase to £60.5 billion rather than £64.5 billion by the end of the century. That would leave the poor countries with less money — reducing the "cohesion fund" from £12 billion under the Delors approach to £9.8 billion.

The Spanish finance minister, Carlos Solchaga, spoke for his own country, Ireland, Greece and Portugal when he dismissed the British proposals as no basis for discussion.

"It is no use for today, and no use for the Edinburgh summit," he said. France, anxious to win allies in the dispute over farm subsidies, also joined the voices ranged against Britain, insisting that it supported the "Delors 2" package. "We are committed to it in Maastricht and we will not change our position," Elisabeth Guigou, minister for Europe, said. M. Delors meanwhile warned the presidency that it was committing a "serious political error" in restricting financing, saying that funds for overseas aid, research and for helping industrial areas would be insufficient.

But Norman Lamont said that both Germany and The Netherlands had backed the presidency's budget proposals, which envisage freezing contributions at 1.2 per cent of gross domestic product for

three years from January. John Major also won a sympathetic hearing during talks with the Italian prime minister, Giuliano Amato in Rome. Signor Amato said afterwards: "The EC presidency is faced with a plurality of positions and is trying to reach a compromise, something that we believe is possible."

M. Delors' spokesmen believed that a compromise suggested by Luxembourg setting a ceiling for contributions at 1.29 per cent of GDP after a two-year freeze would lose Britain her allies in Edinburgh. "In the end you'll see these countries that appear to back Britain going for a compromise nearer M. Delors' plans."

Britain also came under fire yesterday for insisting that its £1.9 billion budget rebate was not negotiable. Horst Kohler, the German finance minister, said that whether it liked it or not, Britain would have to accept that the rebate would form part of a negotiated compromise over the EC budget at Edinburgh.

Leading article, page 15
Tight rein, page 20

Somali leader backs US offer

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND DAVID WATTS IN LONDON

GENERAL Muhammad Farah Aidid, the most powerful of Somalia's three warlords, in a surprise move last night welcomed the proposed deployment of American forces to protect aid distribution.

General Aidid was highly critical of the role of the United Nations in Somalia. Speaking at a press conference, he insisted that any intervention by Washington must be under an American flag and not part of a UN force.

But Washington confirmed yesterday that its provision of an infantry division of 15,000-20,000 troops to help the starving in Somalia, was on condition that it should be

deployed under the UN flag and led by an American officer. With contributions from other countries, the number of troops could approach 30,000. The structure of the operation would be reminiscent of the US-led force that fought the Korean war under a UN flag. In the Gulf war, the allies each fought under their own colours.

Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the UN secretary-general, is considering the US offer and early next week will propose options for ensuring the delivery of aid to Somalia. The UN Security Council will then decide what action to take. About 300,000 people have died in Somalia

since the collapse of law and order after the overthrow of President Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991.

In the first stage of the operation, lasting between two to four months, a US-led force would mount a huge show of force to secure the port of Mogadishu, food distribution points, landing strips and supply routes. That force would then be replaced by a smaller UN force, excluding US troops, who would continue to funnel aid to the needy. Finally, the job would be turned over to Somali guards and police who would protect relief supplies until a functioning government was in place.

Irish vote to ease rules on abortion

BY EDWARD GORMAN
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE people of Ireland have voted by majorities of two to one in favour of allowing women to travel abroad for abortions, and have access to information on abortion services available elsewhere in the European Community.

In a fundamental change to constitutional law, which pro-life groups fear could herald the beginning of the end for the overall ban on abortion, large majorities in constituencies across the country voted to support the proposals.

It was also clear that the key proposal on abortion has been defeated again by about two to one. The government, led by Albert Reynolds, had proposed that abortion should be available in limited circumstances where there is a substantial risk to the life as opposed to the health of the mother.

The defeat on the main issue reflects the opposition to it from the pro-life lobby, which saw it as opening the door to abortion on demand, and from liberal opinion, which believed that the terms were too restrictive and should have included the risk of suicide as a ground for termination.

The counting of votes will be completed today. If a coalition dominated by Labour and Fine Gael is set up, as looks likely, a more liberal approach to abortion in the form of legislation is on the cards.

Labour advances, page 2
Conor Cruise O'Brien, 14

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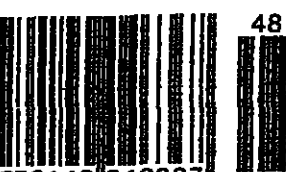
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Births, marriages, deaths	16-17
Business	19-22
Crossword	18
Leading articles	15
Sport	31-36
Weather	18

BUYING THE TIMES OVERSEAS
AUSTRALIA SCH 32; BELGIUM 9; CANADA 25; DENMARK 18; FRANCE 18; GERMANY 18; GREECE 18; HOLLAND 18; IRELAND 18; ITALY 18; JAPAN 18; LUXEMBOURG 18; MALTA 18; NETHERLANDS 18; NORWAY 18; POLAND 18; PORTUGAL 18; SPAIN 18; SWEDEN 18; SWITZERLAND 18; UNITED KINGDOM 18; USA 18



THE TIMES

SUBJECTS

The Queen's funeral
The first public view of the coffin
The funeral procession
The burial at Windsor

Read the full story of the funeral in The Times next week

سكز امت الاصل

NEWS IN BRIEF

ITN shareholders approve takeover

ITN shareholders have unanimously approved a £30 million takeover by a consortium led by Michael Green's Carlton Communications (Melinda Wittstock writes). The new owners, which include Reuters, LWT, Granada Television and Central, will not take over until early next year after a lengthy due-diligence period. Completion of the deal also rests on assurances that ITN's editorial and operational independence will be safeguarded.

ITN senior management welcomed the deal last night, saying that it would end the uncertainty about the company's ownership, created by government legislation requiring ITV company shareholders to sell off 51 per cent of their holdings.

The consortium won the support of shareholders after coming back last week with an improved offer. The three ITV companies that lost their franchises — Thames, TVS and TSW — all accepted £14 a share in compensation. The original terms of £1 a share apply to all others.

Forest expansion

Proposals to restore and enlarge Scotland's native pine woods were announced yesterday by Forest Enterprise, the Forestry Commission management arm. The commission, which manages 7,500 acres, about one quarter of what remains of Scotland's ancient forests, hopes to designate more than 30,000 acres and to double the core area by the year 2000. Graham Hamilton, regional director, said: "The initiative recognises the significance of native pinewoods as natural resources for environmental education."

Mental care demand

A big expansion in hospital beds for mentally disordered offenders is recommended in a government report. It says that their number should be more than doubled to accommodate the hundreds of prisoners in need of psychiatric care. Only 600 beds are currently provided by the National Health Service in medium-secure hospital units. The final report of a joint Home Office-Health department review says that these should be increased to at least 1,500.

Player's timely signing



A link with Paul Gascoigne, left, raised the value of a humble Swatch watch from about £50 to £940 at Bonhams yesterday when a fan acquired a waterproof example whose yellow strap had been signed by the footballer.

A Swatch enhanced by the signature of the pop singer Elton John fetched £910. One signed by the designer Giorgio Armani made £710. Proceeds will go to charity.

Gangster given 14 years

A man said to be one of Britain's top gangsters, suspected of running a huge crime empire with international links, was jailed for 14 years yesterday. Joseph Pyle, 56, of Morden, south London, a self-styled film executive, was convicted of plotting to supply heroin and of supplying opium and morphine sulphate. Peter Gillet, 32, adopted son of Reggie Kray, was jailed for eight years for supplying opium and morphine sulphate. Frank Tyson, 62, a former sailor, was jailed for eight years for the same offence.

Tourists flock back

The number of tourists visiting Britain is rising and by the end of the year is expected to exceed the numbers in 1990 before the Gulf war. Almost 17 million visitors spent £7 billion in Britain last year, the British Tourist Authority said. This year that is expected to rise by 3 per cent.

Visitors to Northern Ireland, mainly from Britain and North America, are expected to increase by 4.6 per cent to a record 1.24 million, according to a Northern Ireland Tourist Board nine-month survey.

Election gains have brought Labour in from the sidelines

Pressure on Spring to form Dail coalition

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE overwhelming pressure on Ireland's Labour Party to form a coalition government was acknowledged yesterday by Dick Spring, leader of the party, which made the most impressive gains in the Irish general election.

Mr Spring, who before the vote had been keen to remain in opposition, expressed his desire to be prime minister. Speaking in his North Kerry constituency, the Labour leader said: "If you look at the figures there's already a very strong mandate for me seeking the office of Taoiseach and I will pursue that. The Labour Party has arrived in mainstream politics."

With a number of rural constituencies still to complete the elaborate task of counting under the single transferable vote system, Labour looked set to end up with between 30 and 32 seats, at least 14 up on the last Dail and reflecting a national swing in its favour of 9.8 per cent.

The gloom for Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael continued, with the former estimated to have about 72 seats (down five) and the latter, around 48 (down seven). Both parties suffered a swing against them of about 5 per cent.

The Progressive Democrat vote continued to hold up well, with the party expected to finish up two seats at eight, including one in Dublin South East for Michael McDowell, its chairman.

The mathematics, with five independents expected to be returned, make a Fianna Fáil/Protestant coalition assisted by independents a theoretical possibility, but still very unlikely given the circumstances of the break up of the last government.

Most observers predicted the so-called Rainbow Coalition of Labour, Fine Gael and the PDs will now have irresistible force behind it, pushing Fianna Fáil into opposition and throwing into doubt the future of Albert Reynolds, the party leader and current Taoiseach.

The first task of the coalition will be to solve the leadership issue and its future stability will be gauged by how smoothly this is achieved. John Bruton of Fine Gael has consistently claimed he will lead the next government, a point he reiterated yesterday, but his party's failure to improve its standing puts him in a weak position compared with Mr Spring.

Mr Bruton's chances were not assisted by Austin Currie, the former SDLP MP in Northern Ireland, who was returned for Fine Gael in Dublin West and immediately suggested Mr Bruton should stand aside and let the Labour leader take charge of the government.

"It's based on the clear choice of the people for change and I think the Labour Party and Dick Spring, in particular, has to respond to that desire for change," Mr Currie said.

His views, which could signal the beginning of a move from within the party to dump Mr Bruton, outraged some of his colleagues. One accused Mr Currie of national radio of treachery against the party and its leader.

The negotiations on the new government will begin in earnest next week after the Labour Party has met to consider its options.

Abortion victory, page 1

Ex-rugby player emerges with ball from election ruck

THE dramatic success of the Labour party in the Irish election is a reflection of the popularity and ability of its leader, Dick Spring (Edward Gorman writes).

For several years it has been evident that Mr Spring has been the real leader of the opposition in the Dail, despite having only 15 deputies behind him, compared to Fine Gael's 55. His incisive performances on many of the most important issues made Fine Gael, under Alan Dukes and later John Bruton, appear almost irrelevant force.

Mr Spring, a 42-year-old barrister from Tralee, co. Kerry, showed his mettle on

the first day of the last Dail when he was the first to point out that Charles Haughey, then Taoiseach, could not remain in office and would have to formally resign, pending a new coalition.

After a two-hour adjournment, Mr Haughey duly accepted Mr Spring's view. He was then the first party leader to suggest that the Anglo-Irish agreement be suspended for the duration of inter-party talks in Northern Ireland, another proposal accepted by the government.

He employed devastating rhetoric against Mr Haughey, whom he accused of being a cancer at the heart of the Irish



Labour leader: Dick Spring, despite his earlier reticence, is keen to be Taoiseach

body politic. His incessant attacks undoubtedly assisted in Albert Reynolds's accession to the Fianna Fáil leadership.

Mr Spring's greatest achievement was masterminding

MAN IN THE NEWS

the victory of Mary Robinson, Labour's nominated candidate, in the last presidential election. She stunned Fianna Fáil by snatching victory from Brian Lenihan, the former defence minister.

Mrs Robinson won with votes from across the spectrum. Her victory also

symbolised the triumph of a moderate left in a country struggling against poverty and unemployment. It was taken by Mr Spring as the first sign of a decisive move away from the old civil war parties of the right, and it provided him with a platform in this election which he has exploited skilfully.

His success has not come overnight. Rather like Neil Kinnock, he has worked hard to rescue his party from the extreme left, expelling militants, restructuring the organisation and moving it into the centre.

Coalition with Fine Gael in the 1980s, when Mr Spring

was deputy prime minister, left a deep scar. There are still many in the party, particularly on the left, who believe Labour should remain in opposition rather than risk another compromise.

This time Labour's price will include its principal campaign pledge to increase exchequer borrowing sharply, ending privatisation and policies to boost the semi-state sector. A national social and economic forum on jobs will also be a high priority.

Mr Spring is a former rugby international, educated at Trinity College, Dublin. He was elected to the Dail for the first time in June 1981.

Council tax price 'is worse services'

By RACHEL KELLY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT half of all households will find their council tax bills are lower than their poll tax bills because of strict capping on council spending, according to government figures released this week. But the financial gain for households will have to be offset by poorer council services, the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities said last night.

Martin Pilgrim, the association's finance under-secretary, said: "Council tax figures are not going to go through the roof. People living in properties in bands A to D, worth up to £88,000, are likely to have lower bills than the poll tax if they live in multi-occupation households." The trade-off would be cuts in services, he said.

"The government has not given councils a choice, because if they spend more the government will cap them."

An estimated 3.5 million households with bills higher than the poll tax will benefit from transitional relief to ensure that no household is more than £182 worse off. Mr Pilgrim said this relief would last only two years. "At some stage, those in band H properties, worth more than £320,000, will be paying about £1,000 in today's terms, and services will have been cut," he said.

The worst hit boroughs will be in outer London where there are many high-cost homes, Mr Pilgrim said.

Councils were working out preliminary budget and council tax figures yesterday, although actual budgets will not be fixed until early next year. One of the councils' hardest calculations will be the estimate for levels of non-collection.

Cumbria County Council, which has a Labour chairman with Liberal support, estimates it will have to raise about £80 million from the council tax.

This means a tax for Band D properties of about £570, including district council tax bills. The figure compares with an average poll tax bill of £303.

Labour voiced fears yesterday that more than 45,000 local authority jobs could be lost next year as a result of local government spending cuts (Arthur Leathley writes).

Jack Straw, shadow environment secretary, told the Commons that 45,000 jobs had been lost last year "when the financial regime was in fact less harsh than it will be next year."

He said financial regulations on local authorities were "without parallel in Europe and the western industrialised world."

Off-licence apologises to Lamont

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE wine store involved in the dispute over Norman Lamont's personal finances changed its story last night and apologised to the Chancellor.

The Threshers Group said it agreed with the Treasury's version of events that Mr Lamont had bought three bottles of wine on Sunday, November 15. This contradicted comments by a shop assistant at one of its off-licences in Praed Street, west London, who told reporters that the Chancellor had bought champagne and cigarettes, using his Access card, on November 16.

Threshers said last night that the Chancellor had visited one of the stores on the Sunday, but not the one in Praed Street. "Threshers has now completed its investigations and we can confirm the statement issued by the Treasury. The Chancellor did make a purchase in one of our stores on Sunday, November 15. He purchased three bottles of wine using his credit card." He did not buy anything the following day.

In Brussels, the Chancellor said that the shop had withdrawn the allegations. Threshers later apologised for any embarrassment caused to Mr Lamont.

The admission followed a frantic day at the Praed Street off-licence, where a team had been sent from head office to read hundreds of transactions on the till rolls. John Onanuga, the sales assistant who had spoken to the press about the Chancellor's visit, had taken the day off.

Hofburg palace goes up in flames

Continued from page 1

were standing, the stable boys opened the back doors and drove them out into the street. Blow though it was to Austrian national pride, the damage could have been far worse had a smoke alarm not warned firemen of the blaze. Parallels to the Windsor Castle fire were quickly pointed out. Blame was initially placed on restoration work — until the manager of the Hofburg estate denied that any such work was taking place. The building is not insured.

The fire destroyed a priceless part of Austria's cultural heritage, Wolfgang Schuessel, the finance minister, said, vowing to seek government funds for immediate rebuilding work.

When the Lippizaner horses were led away, many young Viennese and some foreigners, making their way home from bars and nightclubs, were co-opted as willing volunteers. Using belts and scarves, they led the nervous animals through deserted streets to the Volksgarten park. There, the horses contentedly munched the roses until, late in the morning, they were able to return to their comfortable if acrid stall. The horses are valued at up to £1 million each.

The Hofburg management said later that 4 per cent of the total area of the palace complex had been destroyed by the fire. The earliest Hofburg buildings date from the 11th and 12th centuries, after which each reigning member of the prolific Habsburg family appears to have added a new wing. The complex accommodates museums, galleries, the presidential offices, chapels — including one housing the hearts of the Habsburg

family — and many more conference rooms. There are also grace and favour apartments, which were evacuated.

The only injury reported was that of a woman who lost her two front teeth when a nervous Lippizaner kicked out.

The destruction of the Redoutensaal, built by Empress Maria Theresa under the Austro-Hungarian empire, stunned the Vienna diplomatic community, many of whom were well acquainted with its high-ceilinged, late-baroque interior.

President Carter, the former American president, and Leonid Brezhnev, then Soviet leader, sealed the strategic arms limitation accord (SALT II) with a brotherly kiss in the Redoutensaal on June 18, 1979. It began playing host to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in 1986. Scheduled CSCE talks on the conflict in the former Soviet republic of Nagorno-Karabakh had to be moved to temporary premises.

CORRECTIONS

The charge faced by PC Paul Hutchins, of East Molesey, Surrey, is of attempting to murder his wife and not, as wrongly reported in later editions of November 25, murder. We apologise for the error.

The Royal Hampshire County Hospital was not, as reported on July 21, implicated in a Winchester High Court case in which a child was awarded £150,000 damages against Wessex Regional Health Authority.

I'm desperate for a Dow's

DOW'S PORT

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Trickle-down effect: Aaron Delany, 8, right, taking advantage yesterday of the recent rainfall that has brought water back to the river Ver at Shaford Mill, near St Albans, Hertfordshire. The drought of the past few years had dried out the river bed, left, in March this year (Robin Young writes).

Paul Barnes, owner of the millpond, said yesterday: "I first heard water trickling over the sluice gate on Thurs-

day night. Now there is quite a good depth for the first time for a year."

Above Shaford Mill, parts of the river bed remain dry, Jill Harper, of the National Rivers Authority, said: "While the recent rainfall has begun to improve the water levels, there is still a shortfall in certain areas and we have four years' deficit to make up. We have now had three months of above-average rainfall, but we still need it to continue for the

rest of the winter if the river is to continue flowing next year."

The reappearance of water at Shaford, albeit principally surface drainage and now spring water from the aquifer, owes nothing yet to the £2.5 million scheme which is to end extraction by the Friars Wash pumping station higher up the Ver valley. Since 1953, Friars Wash has been pumping water from the valley to supply Luton.



Under pressure from the Ver Valley Society, the Lee Valley Water Company and the NRA agreed to build new pipelines to bring water to Luton and Dunstable from the Grafton reservoir near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. The scheme will not come into operation until March at the earliest.

Miss Harper said: "We have always said that low-flow rivers like the Ver would be at risk in time of rain or of

drought, because over-extraction has been the problem. The Ver would be a low-flow river even if we had never had a drought. The reappearance of water does not mean that the work on the new pipelines was unnecessary."

Lee Valley Water said: "The recent weather has just begun to recharge the groundwater levels, but if the rainfall does not continue the aquifer will still be very low. We hope that, when our new

supplies for Luton come on tap in the spring, we will have removed one of the problems which has contributed to the Ver's difficulties."

□ The women's eight from University College, Oxford, had to swim ashore as their boat was swept towards a weir in the flood-swollen Thames on Thursday. The bow and stern were torn off the boat when it was caught on the bank during training at Osney lock.

New BBC director-general breaks 'Trappist' silence

Birt rejects Lenin label to pledge open management

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Birt hit back at his tormentors yesterday, denying charges levelled over the past two years that he was a "Trappist monk" intent on stifling creativity by instituting "pseudo-Leninist" centralised control as the BBC's new director-general.

Able to speak freely for the first time since his appointment as Sir Michael Checkland's successor was announced 16 months ago, Mr Birt finally defended himself against a barrage of criticism from broadcasters both within and outside the BBC — particularly from Michael Grade, the Channel 4 chief executive. Admitting that BBC staff had been "unnerved" by uncertainty caused by the unusually long handover period, Mr Birt promised a more open, decentralised management style to expand the "creative space" in which talent can flower.

The BBC would now be "a much happier place to work" because of the Producer Choice internal market reforms, he said. These will allow producers to choose whether to buy resources such as studio facilities in-house or from commercial rivals.

"The BBC is going through a revolution, which is essential and entirely healthy. If you're in a self-contained unit with your purposes clear and you have infinitely more freedom to determine how you spend your money on resources and

After 16 months of being unable to answer his critics, the corporation's new head reveals his plans for its staff

support services, it will unleash enormous creativity and enterprise within the organisation."

Mr Birt promised to listen to his staff and involve them in important decisions involving renewal of the BBC's royal charter in 1996. "I'd like to encourage everyone in the BBC to speak openly. I want to see a much more participative approach to a lot of our problems," he said.

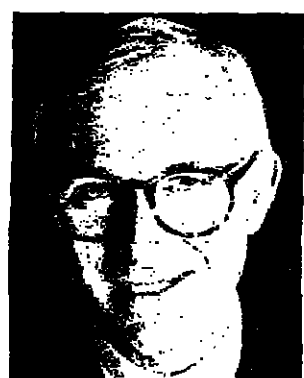
Turning to people who had attacked him for adopting a centralised approach to management, Mr Birt said: "They're wrong. They misunderstand the difference between control and strategy. Producer Choice involves a profound decentralisation. I'm a decentraliser, not a centraliser. But what I don't believe in is anarchy."

"The role of the centre is to forge strategy, define policy and ensure effective oversight. But that strategy has got to be collaborative. If you don't collaborate, your ideas are not robust enough and haven't been tested enough by dialogue. I always welcome, hugely enjoy and will always encourage dialogue."

"But I am a strategist. I do believe that you have got to be clear what code of principles you work by."

Giving his first interviews from since his appointment, Mr Birt said he had not felt free to speak openly before. "I took the view that the BBC could only have one director-general at the time and I did not in any way want to undermine Michael."

"I remain convinced that



Birt: promise of creative space

was the right thing to do," he said. "If I had spoken it would have encouraged even more Kremlinology and people would have looked for differences and shades of meaning to indicate differences of emphasis that truly have not been there."

Mr Birt said the BBC had "paid a bit of a price" for not being able to publish its long-awaited blueprint for survival into the 21st century until Thursday. It had been attacked for not going ahead with the documents, which promised "distinctive" and "pioneering" output catering to all parts of the audience and reflecting the diversity of British culture, until after the government had published its green paper.

Critics thought that the BBC rather than the government should have set the agenda for the corporation's future, but Mr Birt was unrepentant: "It was the right course of action. The government gave a lucid delineation of all the basic questions the BBC and every-

one else must address. If we'd published our document six months ago, people would have long forgotten what we had to say and we would have had to start all over again by putting out another document. But for a very long time we were unable to say exactly what we had in mind."

Turning to claims by Mr Grade that he had adopted a policy of "political appeasement", Mr Birt said there had been no "collusion" with the Tories. "What there has been is dialogue, but we've kept good lines of communication open, not just with the government but with all sides."

Asked whether he thought the green paper's support for the licence fee had meant the BBC had now secured its future as a major public service broadcaster, he said: "We haven't been complacent about this process so far and we're not going to start now."

Mindful that no one in ITV took proposals for a blind-bid auction for franchises seriously until it was too late, Mr Birt promised that the BBC would not make the same mistake.

"ITV was not ready for the debate when it came. People said it was all about the government, but the questions it asked were reasonable. ITV was thought to be sluggish, inefficient, wasteful and to have restrictive practices," he said.

"When the moment came it showed itself completely unable to address those questions. We're not going to make that mistake."

Considerable unease still exists within the corporation about an expected management reorganisation in which Mr Birt will oust all his executive opponents, particularly David Hatch, managing director of network radio. "I have nothing to say about this," Mr Birt said.

Gynaecologist 'claiming a bizarre effect on women'

By A STAFF REPORTER

A HARLEY Street gynaecologist accused of rape and indecent assault, had "a most bizarre effect on women" according to his own account of events, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

The evidence during the Dr Thomas Courtney's trial on four sex attack charges was "extraordinary", Richard Horwell, for the prosecution, said on the eighth day of the trial.

Dr Courtney had suggested that one woman, Miss A, "a complete stranger, was content and happy to remove her clothes, consented and obviously enjoyed sexual intercourse with him", Mr Horwell said.

"On Dr Courtney's account, he really has the most bizarre effect on women imag-

inable," Dr Courtney denied having any sexual contact with the second alleged rape victim. Mr Horwell said: "A suggestion put forward is that he had the enormous misfortune to invite her, Miss B, to his flat on the very night she had an epileptic fit, or had fantasised about him having sexual intercourse with her."

The prosecution said the doctor tried to set himself up "as a sort of pioneer" dealing with pregnant women facing problems associated with drug addiction or Aids. He had made claims he was unable to justify, Mr Horwell said.

Dr Courtney, 46, of Cricklewood, north London, denies raping two women and indecently assaulting two others.

Anthony Arledge QC, for the defence, said it was most unlikely that a middle-aged gynaecologist would suddenly "go off the rails" and indecently attack four women in his consulting rooms. All the women had consented to indulge in sexual activities and neither of the alleged rape victims could provide corroboration, he said. Both had failed to complain until months later. What the two women told the jury was completely untrue, Mr Arledge said.

He told the jury they might not approve of Dr Courtney's behaviour with women outside his marriage, but they were not in a court of morals. The trial continues on Monday.

Germans save Oxford research

By ALISON ROBERTS
ARTS REPORTER

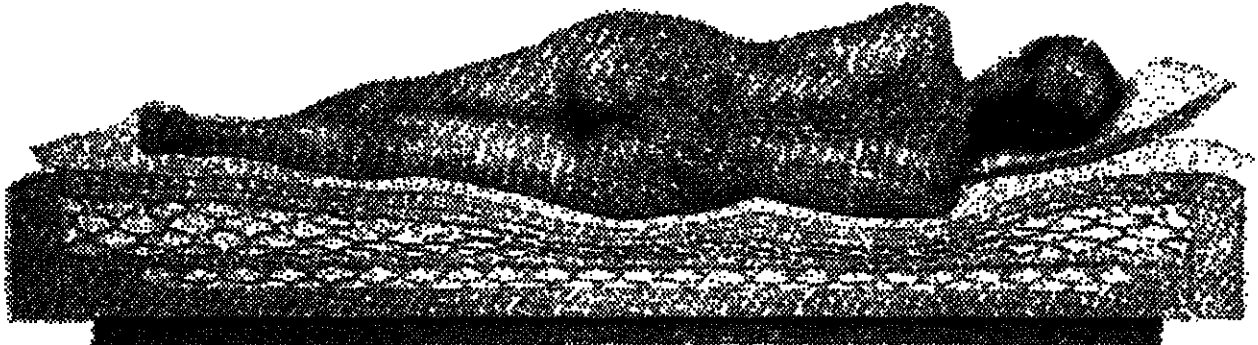
A grant from the Culture Foundation of the German Federal States is enabling Oxford scholars to dig for literary treasure in the Bodleian Library, the second-largest library in England.

The DM200,000 (£83,000) grant will allow scholars to continue cataloguing the Bodleian's oldest books, begun without sufficient funding in January and expected to take about 12 years.

Documentation of the library's incunabula — 7,000 books printed before 1501 — has shown the origin of some of Europe's oldest books. More than a third are of German origin.

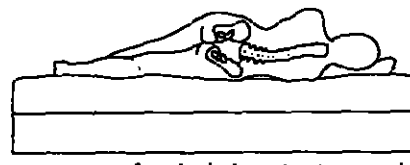
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THE SUNDAY TIMES

The Queen's worst week

The fire at Windsor Castle started the worst week of the Queen's life. It was a week that changed royal history. In a few hours, a mood of public sympathy changed to disenchantment.



The Queen appealed for understanding in a difficult year. But the crisis deepened until finally it was announced the monarchy would pay tax...

Tomorrow, read a full analysis of the Queen's most troubled week ever — in the paper you would expect to make sense of it all. The Sunday Times is the Sunday papers

Scientists find new grasshoppers

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

MORE THAN 20 new species and sub-species of grasshopper have been discovered by two British scientists after a decade's painstaking detective work in the dusty collections of up to 20 universities and museums in Europe and North America.

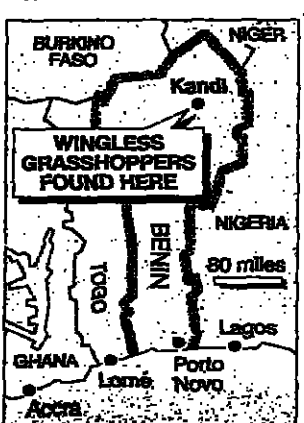
The two scientists have received up to 4,000 grasshopper specimens through the mail from institutions in Vienna and Paris as well as the British and Natural History museums in London.

Some of the new species have been identified in drawers and cabinets for nearly a 100 years after being collected by colonial entomologists and explorers. Others are the result of more recent field trips to countries like Benin and Burkina Faso.

The new grasshopper species have been identified by Lincoln Fishpool and George Popov of the Natural Resources Institute in Chatham, Kent, which is funded by the government's Overseas Development Administration.

Their findings are published in *A Revision of the Grasshopper Genus Orthochtha and Allies*, the first important reassessment of grasshoppers since 1965.

The new species identified are savannah grasshoppers from the Afrotropics, which covers the lowlands and highlands in west, central and east Africa south of the Sahara. Some are also found in India and the Far East.



Other new species have arisen from reclassifying specimens which have for decades been wrongly given the same name. For example some specimens bearing the name *Orthochtha prasina* were actually six distinct species.

One of the more curious and rarer specimens is a wingless grasshopper collected by Mr Popov in west Africa between 1976 and 1983. While many species of wingless grasshoppers are known to live in forests less are known from the grasslands where they are vulnerable to being burnt in fires during dry seasons.

The new species, called *Orthochtha aurea* and a greenish golden colour, gets around this by passing the dry season as eggs laid underground.

The lifestyle may explain why the species has never been identified before, said Dr Fishpool, as very few adults are alive to be collected by scientists.

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Credo**The Nazi that lurks within us**

Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain

The only lesson we learn from history is that people do not learn from history. The events of recent weeks seem to confirm this depressing verdict. The rising tide of neo-fascism sweeping Germany begs the question of whether there was any justification in the comfort dredged from the Holocaust that humanity had been so shocked by the Nazis that never again would people perpetrate — or stand by and allow others to perpetrate — such violent disregard for the rights of others.

The birth of the United Nations and the promulgation of various charters upholding human dignity seemed like a modern rainbow, as if to say: "While the earth remains, while there is seedtime and harvest, summer and winter, day and night, we shall not destroy our fellows in this way again."

Yet the colours of the rainbow are already dominated by black and red in reunified Germany, representing not just the shades of the swastika but the new reality of the 1990s: black for the anger and fury felt by so many; red for the blood that has already been shed of Turks and others.

More shocking than the violence has been the reaction of the German establishment. Instead of immediate and forthright condemnation, there was a silence that failed to acknowledge the dangerous developments and made copycat incidents inevitable. President von Weizsäcker may have been a lone voice of integrity, but the negligible comments of those politicians who fear offending potential voters casts a worrying shadow over the future direction of Germany. If political leaders are so beholden to the baser emotions of public opinion, does that foretell a new twist to the German sin of commission: no longer "I was only obeying orders" but "I am only representing opinion polls"?

But there is a more disturbing question to confront. Can we sit back complacently on our wartime stereotypes and blame the Germans for being Germans, or is it a wider problem? The evidence from many other European countries gives equal cause



for alarm. What about Britain? Could it happen here? Most people are not aware of the racist incidents that occur regularly in this country. We may be able to cite specific economic and social causes for each episode.

but perhaps that general pattern exposes a far deeper reason: that human nature is flawed and contains an Achilles' heel that extends over the whole body whenever certain primal instincts are aroused.

Genesis was right about the rainbow: "the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth" (viii, 21). The tendency to be suspicious of those who are different from us is one we usually contain, but which can sometimes erupt out of control and spiral downwards into fear, resentment and hostility.

Political reaction must be unequivocal: government condemnation of all manifestations of racism, accompanied by police action to demonstrate that it is a genuine concern. Just as essential is a carefully thought-out programme of integration of immigrants, that addresses the worries of the existing population and shows that fears of displacement or lower standards will not materialise.

The religious response must be trying to help people to see themselves in others and accept that variations in colour, creed and custom should not blind us to shared hopes, emotions and pricked hands. It should encourage us to regard others as possible friends rather than potential enemies, and to view differences as enriching rather than threatening.

The approach is one of practical messianism — taking account of the in-built weaknesses of the human psyche and trying to steer them to positive channels. Without a vision to guide us, we condemn the future to the same as the present. With that vision, we have a chance of improving society.

Perhaps we need to add a new commandment to our list of moral pillars: "Thou shalt not infringe the common humanity of any other person" and add the codicil: "for if you do, ultimately you deny yourself".

IRA involvement ruled out in collision at Northern Ireland military base**Four men killed in RAF helicopter crash**

By MICHAEL HORSNELL AND EDWARD GORMAN

AN army major on an official visit to Northern Ireland was among four servicemen killed in a mid-air collision between two helicopters over Bessbrook military base in south Armagh, it emerged yesterday.

Major John Barr, 36, of Kingston upon Thames, London and the three-man RAF crew of a Puma helicopter died after the collision with a smaller Gazelle flown by two Army Air Corps soldiers on Thursday night. The pilot of the Gazelle was seriously hurt but his co-pilot escaped with arm injuries. The men, who were not named, were taken to Musgrave Park hospital in Belfast.

The RAF crewmen who died were named yesterday as: Sqn Ldr Michael Haverson, 39, a former Army Air Corps member who lived at RAF Aldergrove in co. Antrim; Flt Lt Simon Roberts, 26, from Lincoln; and Flt Sgt Jan Peartree, 33, from Peterborough. It was the worst military helicopter crash in more than

20 years of flying in Northern Ireland.

An army spokesman confirmed both aircraft were trying to land after routine flights. They collided at about 300ft, the two craft catapulting away on either side of the concrete landing area. Both planes burst into flames, sending fireballs into the air.

As experts searched the charred remains of the aircraft for clues yesterday, the army spokesman said terrorist involvement had already been ruled out, despite years of IRA attempts to shoot down military craft.

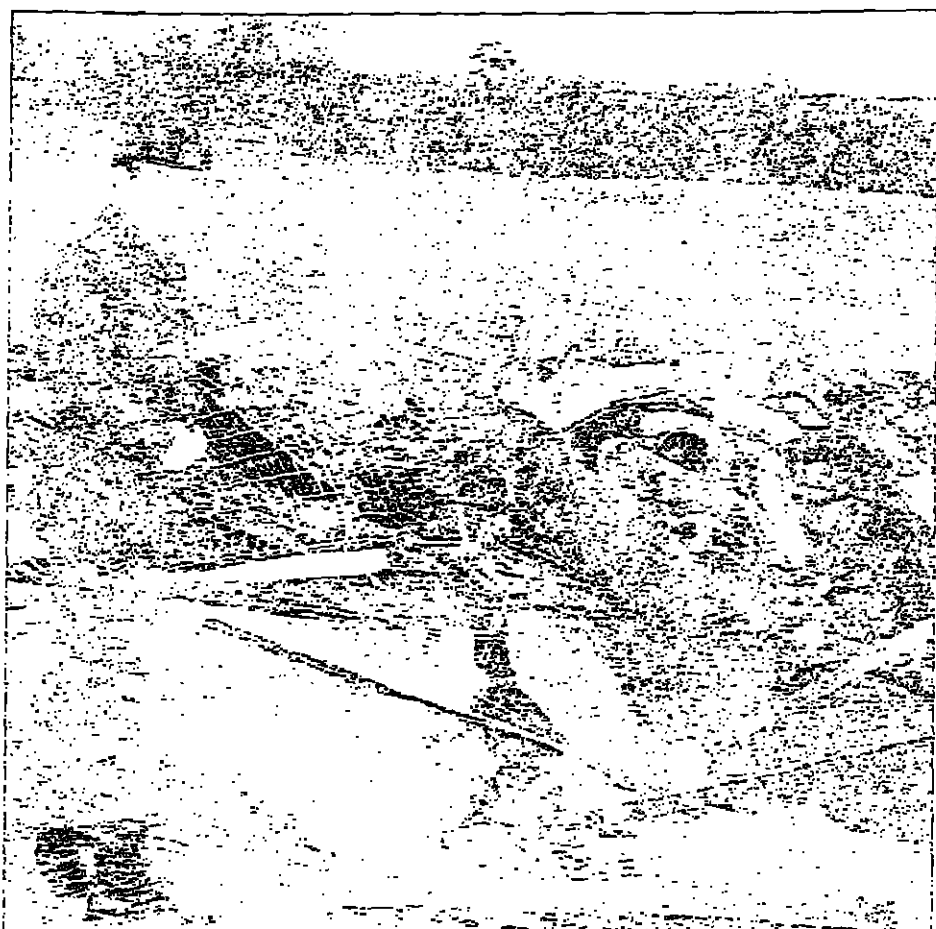
Sir John Wilsey, the officer commanding in Northern Ireland, visited the scene and announced a joint army and RAF board of enquiry. Sir John said the safety of his own personnel, and of those living near to the base, were of prime importance. But it was the first serious crash at Bessbrook in 20 years. The base is one of the busiest heliports in Europe, with a monthly average of

between 1,000 and 1,500 landings and take-offs. The base is a marshalling centre for the security forces in the co. Armagh border area, which is considered too dangerous to traverse by road.

Seamus Mallon, SDLP MP for Newry and Armagh, said he believed the internal enquiry should also look at the wider issues of the way Bessbrook base is run, the number of hours flown by military pilots in Northern Ireland and the procedures for maintaining army and RAF helicopters.

He said people in the area had recently complained about pieces of equipment falling off aircraft. He believed many helicopters in the province were used so often that they could not be maintained properly.

An army spokesman said that there was no need to make flying hours and maintenance the subject of investigation, as they were both subject to detailed rules that were strictly followed.



Seeking clues: Sir John Wilsey said that the safety of personnel was paramount

“you’ve got to be joking”

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THE CHANG

Job losses
hit Asians
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Job losses in the manufacturing sector have hit Asians hardest, according to a survey by the Asian British Chamber of Commerce. The survey, which covered 100 Asian-owned businesses, found that 40 per cent of respondents reported job losses in the last 12 months. The highest proportion of job losses was in the manufacturing sector, where 50 per cent of respondents reported losses. The survey also found that 30 per cent of respondents reported a decrease in sales, and 20 per cent reported a decrease in profits. The survey was conducted by the Asian British Chamber of Commerce, which is a leading organization for Asian businesses in the UK.

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The crossword puzzle is a popular pastime for many people. It is a game of words and numbers, where the player must fill in the squares of a grid with letters to form words. The crossword puzzle is often found in newspapers and magazines. It is a challenging game that requires a good vocabulary and the ability to think logically. The crossword puzzle is a great way to spend a few minutes of your day. It is a game that can be played by anyone, and it is a game that can be played anywhere. The crossword puzzle is a game that is both fun and challenging. It is a game that can help you to improve your vocabulary and your logical thinking skills. The crossword puzzle is a game that is worth playing.

Unions oppose extra teaching hours

Tory-run schools to try five terms a year

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SECONDARY schools in Wandsworth, south London, are to experiment with a five-term year and a 50 per cent increase in teaching time. If the scheme is a success, it may be extended to the borough's primary schools.

The Conservative-controlled council, which has pioneered a series of local government reforms, is to give the schools £200,000 to pay teachers to work longer, or to employ extra staff to cover the additional period. The three schools committed to the change will have the option of varying teaching periods according to age.

Several city technology colleges, including one in Wandsworth, already operate the new system. Michael Clarke, head of Battersea Technology College, said: "The three-term year relates to harvest time, when all the kids worked in the fields. Our intention is to reward effort and provide a combination of study time, additional course and leisure activities to meet students' expressed needs."

The reorganisation will allow Wandsworth to implement its policy of specialisation in secondary schools without reducing the time

spent on national curriculum subjects. Chestnut Grove School will introduce the five-term year in 1994 to allow more time for European languages, art and design. Ernest Bevin School, which will specialise in Asian languages, science and technology, has yet to fix a date.

Edward Lister, leader of Wandsworth council, said: "We do not see the national curriculum as the ceiling of what children should learn. We think it should be the minimum. But teachers cannot cram all the national curriculum subjects into the school day without putting extra hours in. We believe that children will learn more if they are taught more."

The ADT City Technology College, in Putney, has operated the system for 15 months, adapting a five-term year to coincide as closely as possible with the Wandsworth primary school year. An Easter break has been inserted into the fourth of the eight-week terms. Pupils have lessons or other activities from 8.30am until 5pm three days a week, finishing earlier on Mondays and Fridays.

David Durban, its managing director, said: "Children

soon get used to the difference and they like having terms of roughly the same length. We do not have long summer terms when everyone is tired, and the shorter summer break prevents the normal educational slippage. Parents know what to expect, and we are still over-subscribed."

The borough faces opposition from teachers, who are taking legal advice on the plans. The new arrangements mean a return to the 200-day year stipulated in the 1944 Education Act, which is much longer than the period agreed after the strikes of the mid-1980s.

Julia Alterman, secretary of the borough's joint teacher union organisation, said: "Teachers are already over-worked. To add to this is ridiculous. It is not just the extra teaching hours but the preparation and marking which goes with that. This has got to be voluntary and not part of any job description within the school."

Friends bid farewell to Sir Geraint

THE worlds of classical opera and Welsh rugby joined forces yesterday when more than 1,700 family, friends and admirers packed Westminster Abbey to pay a final emotional tribute to the baritone Sir Geraint Evans.

The orchestra and chorus of the Royal Opera House were conducted by Bernard Haitink. Sir George Solti, Sir Colin Davis and Sir Edward Downes. Hymns were sung in Welsh.

Sir Geraint died in September aged 70. Sir John Tooley, general director of the Royal Opera House, said he had played a major part in bringing British opera to international prominence.

Lessons were read by Donald Sinden and Stuart Burrows. Among the congregation were Dame Joan Sutherland, Peter Brooke, the heritage secretary, Lord and Lady Merlyn-Rees, Viscount Torondy and representatives of the Welsh National Opera and the London Welsh rugby club.

Court and social, page 16



Remembering: Dame Joan Sutherland

Hogg stays silent on Mark Thatcher

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE Foreign Office yesterday refused to respond to MPs' demands for a statement on Mark Thatcher's alleged involvement in a £20 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia. Douglas Hogg, the Foreign Office minister, was repeatedly pressed by Tam Dalyell and other Labour MPs to explain the background to the Al-Yamamah arms deal. The deal, Britain's biggest single export contract, involved the sale to Saudi Arabia in 1985 of Tornado and Hawk aircraft and military equipment.

Mr Dalyell said that reports of Mr Thatcher's links with arms dealers went "to the very heart of government". In what he called a series of "very serious and careful" questions, he asked whether the government could confirm or deny "that Mark Thatcher received approximately £10 million soon after the signing of the memorandum of understanding for the Al-Yamamah deal in September 1985 and that the agreement on the deal specified he would receive a further approximate £10 million subsequently".

Mr Dalyell asked why King Fahd of Saudi Arabia had written to Baroness Thatcher,

then prime minister, making it "implicitly clear" that commissions would be paid on the deal.

The Labour MP for Lintlithgow demanded to know why the letter had been sent via Saudi Arabia's US ambassador rather than through the London embassy.

Mr Hogg refused to respond to questions relating to Mr Thatcher, put also by Ken Livingstone, Labour MP for Brent East.

He said that Mr Livingstone has shown "a curious ordering of priorities" against the "important background" of the Middle East to spend "virtually 50 minutes talking about Mark Thatcher".

Raising the questions during a Commons debate on Britain's relationship with the Arab world, Mr Dalyell referred to claims in Channel 4's *Dispatches* programme, broadcast on Wednesday, "that it has to be cleared up," he said. "I cannot believe that programme was put out without a tooth-comb of libel lawyers going through it. It simply won't do to pass by on the other side of the road."

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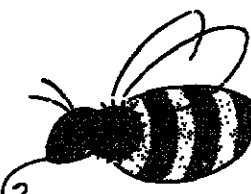
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Capital gains tax is crucial issue for royal treasurers

Now Queen's English is the language of Tessa and Peps

By CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

TAX minimisation, tax efficiency but never, dare we say it, Ma'am, tax avoidance. These are some of the phrases that the Queen's financial advisers will have to come to terms with after 55 years of tax exemption.

While the Queen has made it plain that she wants to pay her fair share and lighten the burden of the Civil List, there is expected to be some kind of redeployment of her blue chip share portfolio in a way that fulfils her promise but also maintains the best return on investment.

The privileges reflected a series of deals struck between Crown and Parliament, starting with the 1697 Civil List Act in which William III accepted £700,000 a year for life. George III wrung more out of Parliament in return for the surrender of hereditary revenues, excluding the duchies of Lancaster and Cornwall.

A select committee investigation resulted in the Civil List Act of 1972, which agreed that annual grant should be fixed with the help of the Royal Trustees. But that arrangement is about to undergo a profound change.

It is known that several leading City houses manage the royal portfolio, which must adopt a new strategy in the light of the discussions going on between the Royal Household and the Treasury as to the details of the sort of tax she will pay.

The conservative, discretionary trading programme

■ Since the sovereign's offer to pay tax, only the Inland Revenue will be privileged to know the sum of her personal wealth

that has been adopted thus far, which is designed to protect capital and provide an income, will have to be modified.

The announcement that she will pay income tax, council tax on Balmoral and Sandringham and contribute more to the royal family budget has not cleared up whether she will pay capital gains tax, which is crucial to the planning of any new strategy.

If it is accepted that she has a minimum of £50 million to re-invest to take account of her change in circumstances there are a number of ways in which she can defer either tax or income while still paying her way.

Neil Wright, senior manager dealing with personal financial planning in the Birmingham offices of Coopers & Lybrand, Britain's largest

firm of accountants, said last night: "The first problem is whether she will have to pay capital gains tax."

If she does not, she could leave all her shares as they are but if she does there is a number of ways in which the capital gains tax — tax on the growth of investments — might be legitimately deferred, he said.

He believes she should opt to invest her money in four different directions.

First, she should not overlook the £22,000 in tax-free investments open to any individual, including herself and the Duke of Edinburgh. These include tax-exempt special savings accounts and personal equity plans (known as Tessa and Peps in the jargon).

"They shouldn't be ignored because they are simple and easy to do," Mr Wright said.

To provide a steady income

of around £1 million a year, Mr Wright suggests £15 million worth of tax-favoured insurance policies and gilts.

He believes the bulk of the rest would be wisely invested in two ways. Ten million pounds should be put into something known as an "off-shore roll-up" fund, which has the effect of deferring tax on income until the fund is sold. Care would have to be taken to ensure it was a good investment rather than a scheme to avoid tax.

She should also purchase her own huge personal unit trust of £25 million, which has the effect of deferring capital gains tax until the unit is sold, thus allowing gains to accrue gross.

Yesterday's announcement almost certainly means that there is even less chance that we will ever know how she redeploys her fortune. Now that she has offered to pay tax, the pressure has been removed for a public declaration of her wealth. Only the taxman will ever know.

City men who have the royal ear

THERE are discreet but close ties between the pomp and ceremony of state and the hard ways of the City (Angela Mackay writes).

When the Queen has to complete a tax return, the document is likely to be prepared by Peat Marwick which already advises the

monarch. Cazenove & Co is most commonly cited as a stockbroker to the Queen, however Rowe & Pitman — part of SG Warburg — NM Rothschilds and Baring Brothers also manage some of her funds. Evelyn Rothschild is a trusted friend and financial adviser who is believed to

have been of particular help during the 1987 shares crash.

Men in frock coats at Coutts in the Strand transact the Queen's personal banking while her solicitors, Farrer & Co in Lincoln's Inn Fields, have been busy this year sorting out her children's marital affairs.



Business as usual: the Princess of Wales presenting a British Red Cross bravery award to Shelley Sartain, from Wales, who rescued a family stranded by the tide

Hounds of Fleet Street still bay

By JOE JOSEPH

WILL Fleet Street's royal terrors become any less dogged in their chase of the younger Windsors now that they are to become a less heavy drain on the public purse?

Will the tabloids regard the Queen's children more as private citizens, like you and me, who pay their way and deserve to be left in peace providing they don't steal cars or streak at Lord's?

Possibly. But probably only if you believe that the tabloids' royal watchers floundered last summer only because Charles and Diana drew cash from the Civil List or that it was simply the fact that the Duchess of York is publicly funded that prompted paparazzi to eavesdrop on her financial counselling sessions with her team adviser.

Stewart Stevens, editor of London's *Evening Standard*, feels much of the heat will go off the younger royals because they will no longer be dependent on the public purse. He said on yesterday's BBC *Breakfast News*: "They will still be reported, but they will not be so important." Max Hastings, editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, agreed that the Queen's offer would dampen some of the criticism from the tabloid press. But being Street-wise, he acknowledged the honeymoon might be limited.

At *The Sun*, Stuart Higgins, the deputy editor, said: "It's not a question of laying off them. Their behaviour and antics brought them into the public eye over the summer. Our readers have wanted the Queen to pay tax. The fact that she is now offering to pay some may help. But if the younger royals can still not get their private lives in order, then we will continue to report it. Our readers are interested in the royal family."

David Banks, newly appointed editor of the *Daily Mirror*, said: "It's not a question of laying off, because I wouldn't agree that we'd laid on."

Mark Bolland, director of the Press Complaints Commission, says the argument that many of the younger royals' activities are funded from the public purse has been used by editors to support some of the revelations they splash on their front pages. "Obviously that argument won't still obtain, but some activities will still be paid for out of the public purse, so the situation is still too murky to make a firm decision. There are other public interest arguments that can be put forward."

AS OTHERS SEE US

A weekly look at how the world views Britain

Symbol of our disintegration

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

THE Queen's offer to pay income tax has surprised many Americans — not because they believe the mystery of majesty will be infringed by such a base requirement, but because most Americans had no idea she did not pay taxes in the first place.

The aura of myth that surrounds the royal family (or used to) is compounded in America by a deep ignorance of what royalty is and does. The Queen's decision to pay tax has been seen almost as an admission of guilt, the unmasking of a scam not unlike the recent allegations that President Bush had bought a plot of land in Texas to escape higher taxes.

For many the tax question is not unlike the scandals that have plagued the royals all year, and another indication of the way Britain is said to be disintegrating. The *Windsors* "fall from grace" is reported

every newspaper, and America's legions of agony aunts, astrologers and pop psychiatrists have been working overtime in recent months to offer advice to the royals.

"Is the monarchy really necessary?" asked a headline on the front page of *Time* magazine this week, before going on to declare, with some gloom, that "The notion of the family monarchy... is on the brink of collapse."

As with so much else in television-obsessed American life, many not only think the royals are like a soap opera, they believe they are a soap opera — an assumption supported by a recent rash of television dramas.

When an American taxi driver asks you what will happen to the royal family, that is not because he believes you are privy to inside information. He simply thinks you have already seen the next episode.

Verdict on fire is due next week

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE Queen must wait until next week to receive the interim report on what might have caused last Friday's blaze at Windsor Castle.

A team of fire investigation officers, police and forensic scientists is still making checks, but it is understood to have now established what happened. Buckingham Palace confirmed that the Royal Household was expecting a copy of the report. However, a spokeswoman refused to comment further until its contents were known.

A heritage department spokesman said: "The report will indicate the cause of the fire and other technical information. We have not received it yet."

Press reports suggesting that a halogen lamp ignited inflammable liquid being used by picture restorers were "pure speculation". Berkshire fire officers said earlier this week.

It has also been suggested that the fire may have been caused by burning binmen from roof work falling inside the castle, or by an electrical fault or by an abandoned cigarette end or match.

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Royal vandal or saviour? The Windsor fire has revealed treasures thought lost forever by George IV

History rises from castle ashes

ARCHAEOLOGISTS are becoming increasingly excited at the possibility of important historical discoveries after the disastrous fire at Windsor Castle. The aftermath could reveal the castle as a much more historic building than has been apparent for nearly two centuries.

While architects are hotly demanding that the castle be rebuilt in modern style, the opportunity may also exist to move back in time and open up earlier masterpieces which were so artfully concealed by George IV and his architect, Sir Jeffrey Wyatville.

The largely gutted North Range has held state rooms and private apartments since the 12th century. It is also the site of the present St George's Hall, which was created

in the 1820s for George IV from two magnificent state rooms fitted out for Charles II and intended to rival contemporary interiors at Versailles. The lavishness of George IV's rebuilding came in the flush of victory after Waterloo. In 1824, the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his budget speech talked of the prestige of Britain "in the councils of Europe" and Parliament promptly voted a massive £150,000 to ensure Windsor Castle could adequately fulfil its new high purpose as a meeting place for crowned heads and world leaders.

However, the question being asked now is whether, on this occasion, George IV acted as a royal vandal, or did his action preserve the earlier layers of the castle's history for future generations to explore?

The commissioners supervising the rebuilding of the castle, who included the Duke of Wellington, were initially reluctant to include St George's Hall in the rebuilding, and it is surprising that a king so fond of antiques should have countenanced the destruction which made way for it.

Sir Owen Morshhead, librarian to

BY MARCUS BINNEY
ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

George VI, was one of many who felt that Wyatville "was needlessly destructive in his treatment of buildings, which after centuries of honoured existence, had established a prescriptive right to survival". However, masonry had cracked and roof timbers in many places had rotted. Wyatville thought he was simply putting to rights centuries of neglect.

What archaeologists now believe may have come to light is part of

the Stuart remodelling carried out under Wren's rival Hugh May. Walls and ceilings were frescoed by the Italian artist Antonio Verrio, who had been brought to London by the second Duke of Montagu, Charles II's ambassador to Paris.

Geoffrey Parnell, an English Heritage historian who has made the first cursory inspection of the hall, said: "The north wall is not stone as might be expected, but plaster on timber lath. Behind patches of pristine 17th-century brick work have been revealed, with travelling marks still fresh

beneath the first layer of plaster."

The question arises whether some of Verrio's frescoes survived in the way that medieval wall paintings have been discovered beneath later plasterwork and panelling in numerous churches and houses. Verrio's frescoes were recorded in detail in aquatints published in 1819, just before Wyatville began remodelling in Gothic style for George IV.

Little study has been made of the medieval fabric since 1913. Archaeologists will be looking for traces of work by Henry II, Henry

III and Edward III. "Medieval walls laid bare by the fire are spattered with blocked up masonry," Mr Parnell said.

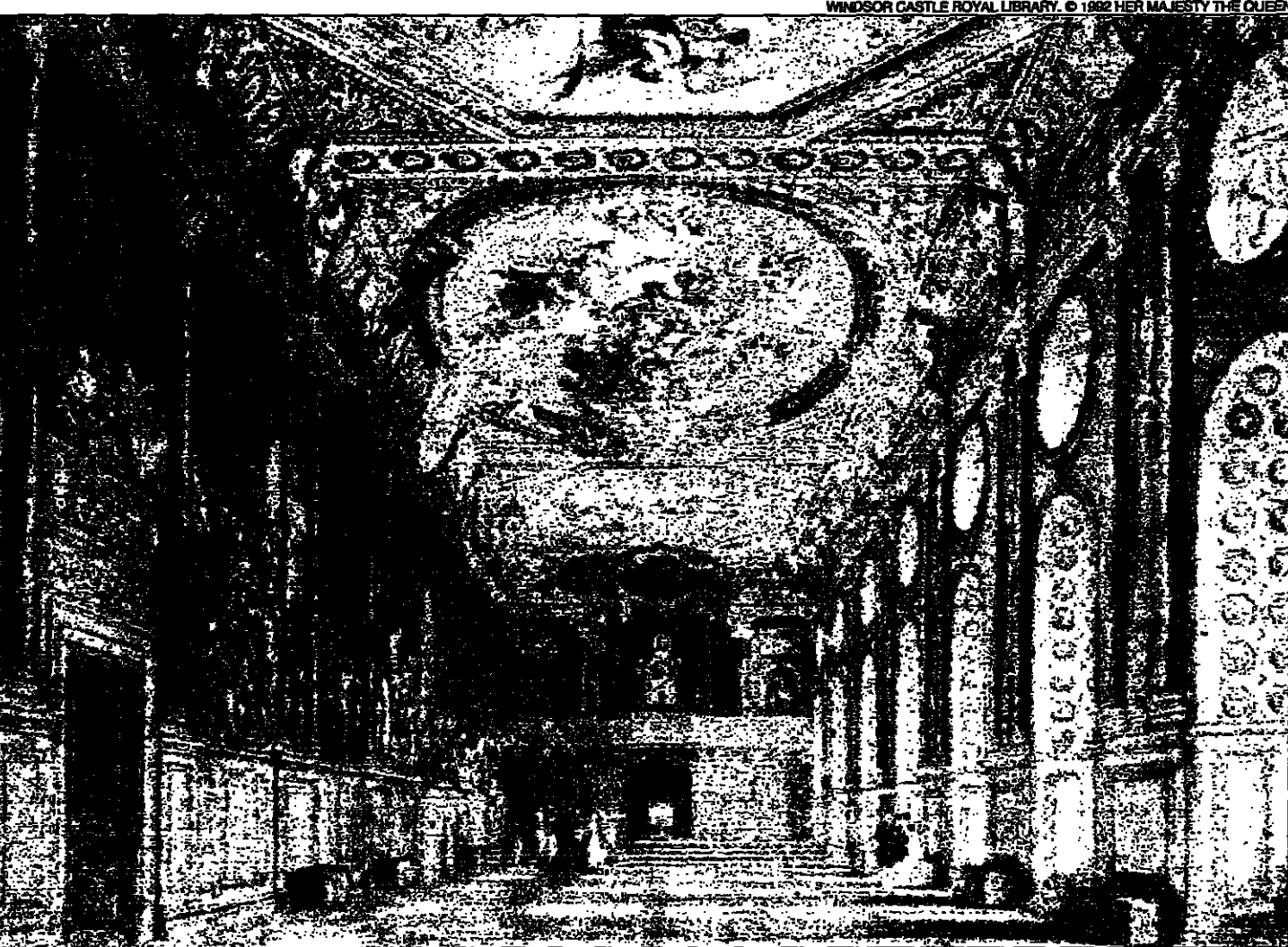
Anthony Emery, an authority on medieval domestic architecture, said: "The work was of very high quality, with fragments of plaster work and heraldic glass appearing. Windsor is of special importance because so little English medieval palace architecture survives."

Yesterday, the Royal Institute of British Architects called for an architectural competition for the rebuilding of Windsor Castle in a contemporary idiom, rather than a slavish recreation of Victorian styles.

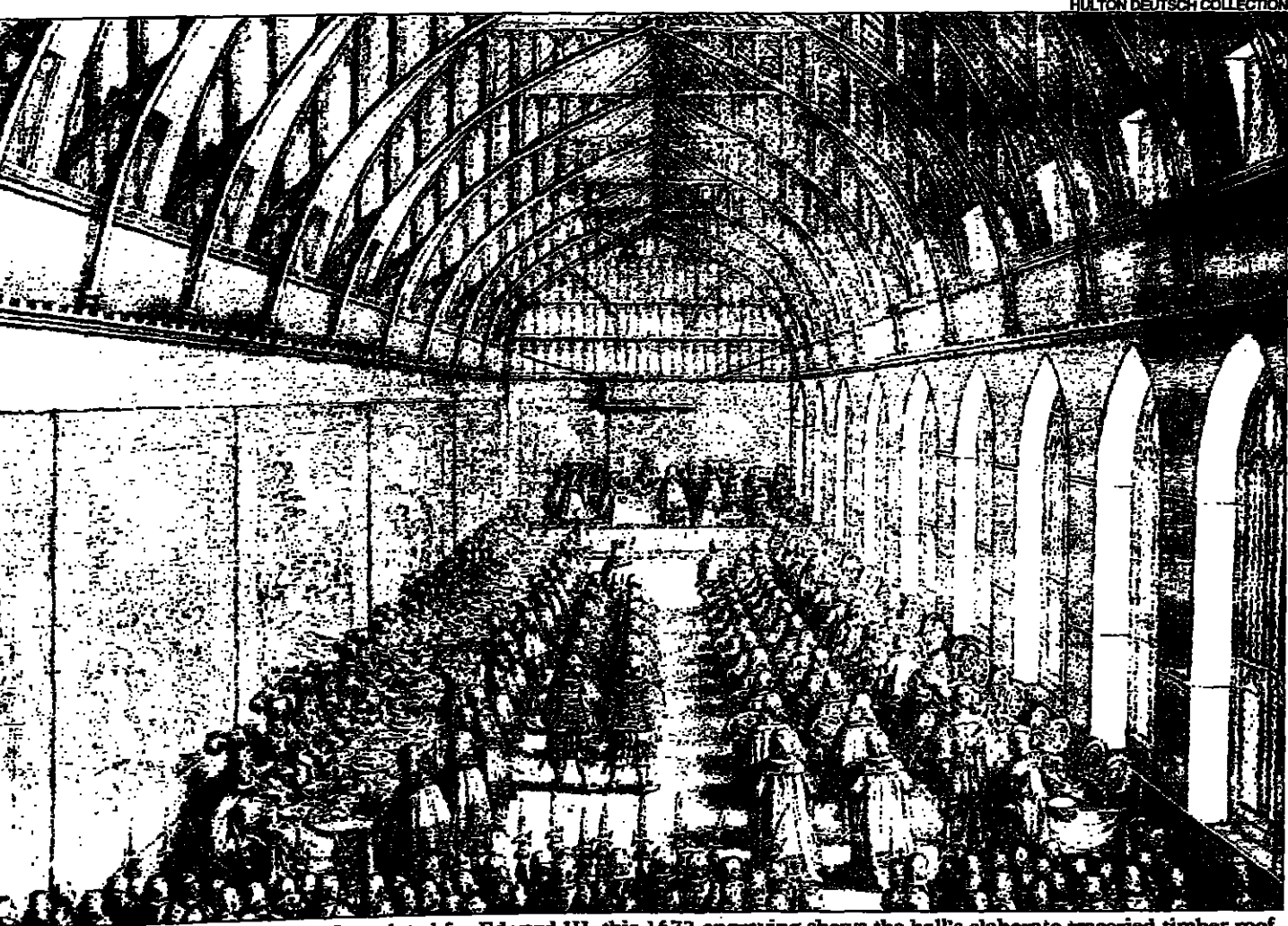
Simon Jenkins, page 14
Letters, page 15



1832-1992: St George's Hall before the fire. Created for George IV, it combined the old hall and chapel in a great banquet hall



1684-1829: the hall was remodelled in 1684 to enable Charles II to rival Versailles and was frescoed by the Italian Antonio Verrio



1363-1682: the medieval period. Completed for Edward III, this 1672 engraving shows the hall's elaborate traceried timber roof

Revealed: glorious layers of England's heritage

THE medieval St George's Hall, completed for Edward III in 1363, is recorded in an engraving by Wenceslaus Hollar, the Bohemian artist who settled in England in 1635 and is famous for his views of London (Marcus Binney writes). Published in a history of the Order of the Garter in 1672, it shows a Garter feast in the time of Charles II.

The second view is taken from Pyne's *Royal Residences*, published in 1819, and shows the frescoes painted by Antonio Verrio, who redecorated a series of 14 state apartments for Charles II between 1675 and 1684.

Verrio was born in Lecce in the heel of Italy and studied in Venice. After his arrival in England, he went to work at the Mortlake tapestry works and later painted the Heaven Room at Burghley House, today the most famous of his "colonnaded" interiors. In all, he was involved in the decoration of 14 rooms, only three of which survived, as well as painting the outside walls of Horn Court, later filled in with the Waterloo Gallery.

Verrio's two finest interiors, the King's Chapel and St George's Hall, were thrown into the present hall by the architect Sir Jeffrey Wyatville. His paintings in St George's Hall glorified England's patron saint and on the north wall showed Edward III receiving the victorious Black Prince "crowned with laurels and carried by slaves" as in a Roman triumph, with the Merry Wives of Windsor bringing up the end of the procession.

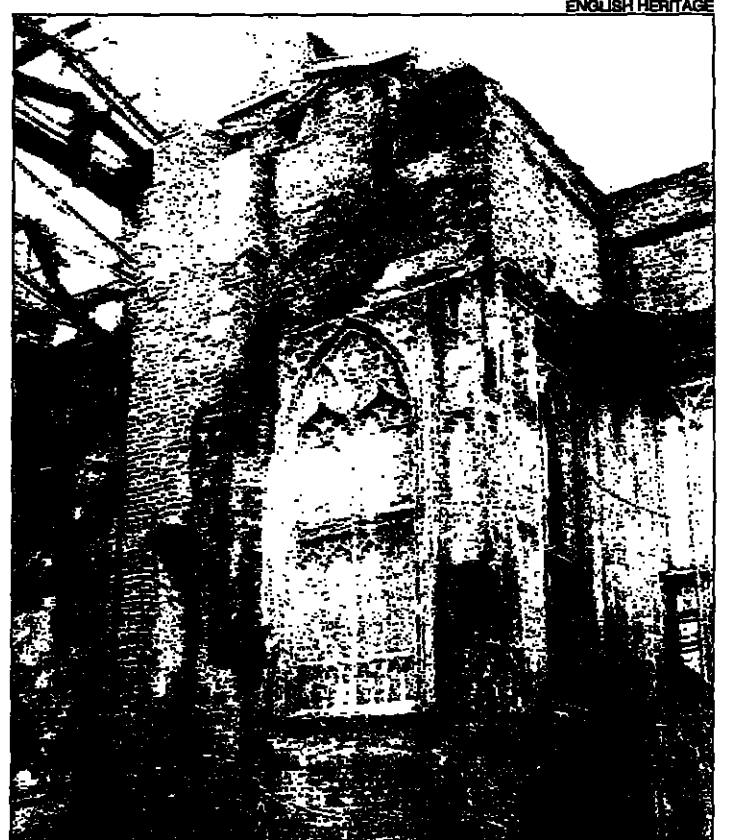
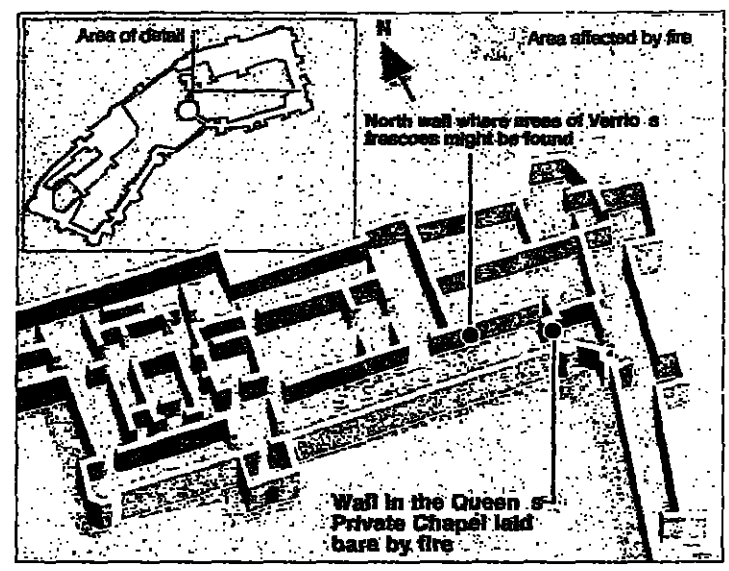
Wyatville threw the Hall and Chapel into a single space, which as television footage has shown, made one of the grandest ceremonial banqueting halls in the world. Wyatville's Gothic ceiling, painted with shields of the knights of the Garter down the ages, has been destroyed.

Recent photographs taken in the private chapel by English Heritage have revealed long-hidden medieval details including, as shown here, a blocked door and window, probably of 12th century date.

Access to the gutted state rooms remains heavily restricted, but Geoffrey Parnell, the English Heritage historian, said: "We hope to have a temporary roof over St George's Hall and the Grand Reception Room in a fortnight's time and archaeological exploration can then begin immediately."

Edward III transformed Windsor from a fortress into a sumptuous royal palace. A contemporary chronicler wrote: "Almost all the masons and carpenters throughout England were brought to Windsor, so hardly anyone could have any mason or carpenter except in secret, on account of the king's prohibition."

In 1360, the sheriffs of 13 counties were ordered to send a total of 568 masons to Windsor. An engraving of St George's Hall as built by Edward III was made by



Devastation: the private chapel at the eastern end of St George's Hall, showing the stair turret and mid-19th century window

Hollar, shortly before Charles II's remodelling. But Mr Parnell said: "The fragments of timber roofing surviving the fire look like simple 17th-century A-frames."

Henry III, after his marriage in 1236, made Windsor one of his principal residences, and following nearly 20 years of work, said one monastic chronicler, "there was no finer castle in the whole of Europe".

Another subject which has long tantalised historians is Edward III's mysterious project for an Arthurian order of the Round Table. In 1344, the young king held a great tournament and ordered "a most noble house" for the new order, which accounts

show was to be a circular building 200 feet in diameter. It was begun in 1344, but abandoned, and Edward instead founded the new order of the Garter. Excavations may reveal the whereabouts of the Round Table.

Edward III's main works at Windsor began in 1350, and for five years were directed by William of Wykeham. In all £50,000 was spent. The queen had a chamber with mirrors, and another called La Daunsyng Chambre. Until recently, it was thought that nothing remained of these apartments, apart from vaulted undercrofts, but the fire may reveal much more of the layout.

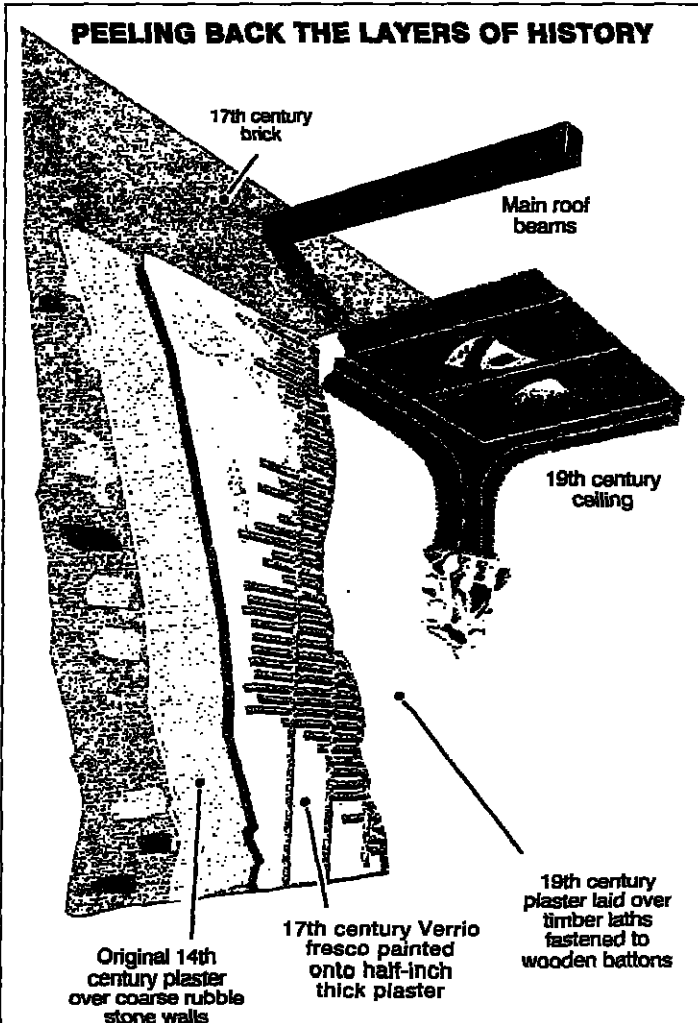
Art hidden within walls

THE walls of the present hall, dating from the 1820s, consist of a layer of plaster laid on timber laths fastened to wooden battens (Marcus Binney writes). Beneath this is likely to be the 17th century plasterwork of the Charles II state rooms.

The walls, originally forming two rooms, a royal chapel and a smaller St George's Hall, were painted entirely in fresco by the Italian artist Antonio Verrio. They are recorded in aquatints published in 1819, just before Wyatville transformed the interiors for George IV. Beneath this is likely to be the original 14th century plasterwork laid over coarse rubble stone walls, dating from Edward III's expansion of the castle in the 1350s.

The first cursory inspections by English Heritage have revealed what appears to be 17th century brickwork and plasterwork beneath the 1820s plaster. Photographs taken after the fire show that the walls of St George's Hall, unlike the ceiling, survived substantially intact and could be carefully repaired.

Archaeologists will not want to remove the 1820s plaster unless they are sure that substantial areas of the Verrio frescoes survive beneath. The usual technique in such cases is to open up small windows in the surface to see how much decoration survives underneath.



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10 EUROPEAN NEWS

THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28 1992

Britain opens visa office for Bosnians in Zagreb

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR,
AND TIM JUDAH IN BAJINA BASTA

AFTER the outcry over Britain's refusal to admit Bosnian refugees without visas obtainable only in Vienna or Belgrade, the government announced yesterday that it was setting up a visa office in its Zagreb embassy. Applications will be accepted by mail.

Mark Lennox-Boyd, the parliamentary under-secretary at the Foreign Office, said the new visa section would open "as soon as practical problems including accommodation have been sorted out". The embassy in Ljubljana, Slovenia, is operating out of an hotel, but there are no plans to provide a visa service there.

The government's insistence that all Bosnians must get visas provoked an uproar. Charities and refugee aid organisations accused it of crude cynicism in making it virtually impossible for any Bosnian to seek refuge in Britain, as most victims of "ethnic cleansing" are in temporary camps in Croatia or Slovenia and none is able to travel to Belgrade.

Mr Lennox-Boyd, however, suggested that there was no relaxation in the criteria for admission. He noted that visas would be granted in Belgrade only to those trying to enter Britain "on urgent medical or compassionate grounds, and

spouses and close family of British citizens".

A common approach to the admission of refugees from former Yugoslavia will be a main topic on the Edinburgh summit agenda. Britain is under pressure, particularly from Germany, to take more refugees and so lighten the burden on countries that have admitted tens of thousands.

The Home Office is preparing a report on a common asylum policy that will be discussed at a meeting of interior and justice officials on Monday.

On the front line, the United Nations was humiliated yesterday as hopes dimmed that a convoy of food for tens of thousands of Bosnian Muslims would breach Serbian lines. After a two-day wait across the Drina river from the Serb-held town of Bratunac, the convoy moved southwards, only to find hundreds of protesters, wedding axes and staves, blocking their path.

As the UN convoy neared the bridge between the Serbian town of Bajina Basta and the Bosnian town of Skelani, hundreds of people rushed past to block its path. "This way to the bridge," a Serbian policeman, directing demonstrators, said. A furious Belgian UN commander demanded that the local Yugoslav army commander stop people moving to the bridge but he protested that he could not because they were Bosnian Serb refugees from the Skelani area. "I'll call your big boss," snapped the Belgian officer in a futile threat.

Suggestions by a British officer that Ukrainian troops fire into the air and push the protesters aside with armoured personnel carriers was vetoed by the Ukrainian commander, who said: "I am providing security against a military attack, not women and children."

After demonstrations by Serbs in Bratunac, General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb military leader, assured General Philippe Morillon, the UN military commander for Bosnia, that the convoy would get through to the besieged enclave of Srebrenica if it took a different route. However, not only was the bridge blocked, but a UN reconnaissance team reported that the Serb-proposed safe passage today by the Bosnian Serb army officials.

In Belgrade Judith Kumin, for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said that the UN was still determined to deliver the aid to Srebrenica. "Sadako Ogata, the high commissioner, today expressed profound disappointment that the Serb side is not living up to its commitments," she said.

The Serbs are desperate to dislodge the Srebrenica Muslims because they hold only a narrow strip of land between the enclave and the Drina. In Belgrade the danger of the dam, holding more than three million cubic metres of toxic waste, spilling over into the Tara river receded further last night as dry weather prevailed (Dessa Trevisan writes). UN emergency teams are flying in concrete and metal constructions and plan to build three jetties and another smaller dam to keep the river current away from the dam.

Letters, page 15

NEWS IN BRIEF



Unmarried Stephanie has a son

Paris: In a year replete with tales of topless frolicking, intercepted "love tapes", marital despair and divorce, just about the only scandal Europe's dwindling club of royals lacked was an illegitimate birth.

Now Princess Stephanie of Monaco, above, has provided one, giving birth to a 7lb boy, Louis, at the Princess Grace hospital in Monte Carlo. "Mother and child are doing well," the royal palace said.

The 27-year-old princess's lover, former royal bodyguard Daniel Ducruet, was by her side — enjoying the first flush of fatherhood as he awaits a summons from Nice magistrates for two assaults on motorists. Apart from the headline writers, Stephanie's tangled love life and unconventional taste in men have won her few admirers in the conservative, Roman Catholic principality. (Reuters).

Tremor rocks Los Angeles

Los Angeles: Southern California was preparing for a possible major earthquake after 30-storey buildings in central Los Angeles were rocked yesterday morning by a tremor measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale (William Cash writes).

Felt from San Diego to Los Angeles, the quake lasted for six seconds. Damage was minimal and there was one minor injury. Saturday Review, page 27

Polisario call

London: Muhammad Abdelaziz, the Western Saharan leader, has urged Britain to push in the UN Security Council for implementation of the UN-sponsored referendum in his country. At Foreign Office talks he called for pressure on Morocco, which he says refuses to allow self-determination.

Gangsters sue

Tokyo: Yamaguchi-gumi, Japan's largest underworld syndicate, is suing the government over new anti-gangster legislation under which it is designated a "violence group". The syndicate claims the law violates its civil rights. (AFP).



Lost in grief: mourners weep beside the coffins at yesterday's funeral service in Hamburg for the victims of the racist attack in Mölln last Monday. A Turkish woman and two children died in the firebombing. The local *hodja*, or holy leader, told a crowd of thousands gathered outside the mosque that the victims had finally found peace

Bonn acts against racism as Turks mourn

FROM JOHN HOLLAND IN HAMBURG AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE German authorities yesterday banned the Nationalist Front, a 130-member neo-Nazi party based in Detmold, near Bielefeld in northwestern Germany, in its first firm step against weeks of mounting racist violence here.

Rudolf Seiters, the interior minister, said the ban was an "unmistakable warning signal" to the extreme right-wing and said investigations were continuing against other groups. The ministry is expected to move against several extremist organisations.

The 25-year-old extremist Michael Peters from Gudow near Mölln and ten other extremists have been arrested on suspicion of involvement in attacks on asylum homes, and will be investigated for Monday's Mölln firebomb attack that killed a Turkish woman and two children.

At a ceremony in Hamburg to commemorate the three Turkish victims of the firebomb in Mölln, weeping women, their heads covered with black scarves, ringed the three coffins, set in a row

outside a mosque. In the middle stood the local *hodja*, or holy leader, telling a crowd of thousands yesterday that the victims were finally in a peaceful place in heaven although their last seconds on earth had been filled with flames, terror and pain.

The German flag was flown at half-mast while the Turkish crescent was held higher — a reminder that Germany's economic miracle of the past three decades would not have been possible without the hard-working *gastarbeiter*, who now feel a sense of betrayal.

Despite the international and a certain amount of domestic outrage, unleashed by the suspected neo-Nazi arson attack in Mölln, most Turks remained circumspect and calm, hoping that the Germans will come to their sense and force their government to crack down on racism.

"Many of us were born in Turkey and we hope to die in Turkey," said the dark-haired teenaged "Aussiedler" hoisting aloft a red flag emblazoned with Turkish crescent.

"But these three poor souls had to die here in Germany and that's a pity," he said, gesturing to the flag-draped coffins.

"We can't do it ourselves," said Orgut Ocan, a 55-year-old tailor. "We pay taxes but we can't vote so we have no real representation in this country. It is a typical German double standard."

Norbert Blum, the minister for employment, reminded the gathering of the old German expression that "grief not shared is only half grief. We share grief with the families of the dead," he said, "and we must now come together to end these violent trends."

Also, attending the commemoration with other dignitaries was Klaus Kinkel, the foreign minister, who brought a wreath. But Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, declined to attend.

At the ceremony progressed, and the *hodja's* high-pitched prayers cut through the air, the crowd's grief turned to quiet frustration about the future. Turgut

Gorut, 14, waved his Turkish flag but held his head low. "I still feel myself a Turk first though I was born here," he said. "I still want to live here but I feel more at home in Turkey. It is not as bad as here but here there is more work."

Like many of his friends, Turgut expects there to be more unemployment among Turks as the German recession deepens. For the Turks who still have jobs he said: "It is only going to get tougher. The Germans think we are stealing their jobs but it is true we often do the jobs they refuse to do. It is a contradiction."

"If the government won't do anything to stop this, we must arm ourselves although I don't like to use violence against violence, but if it has to be that way so be it."

The coffins were placed in the hearse for the five-mile journey through Hamburg to the city hall square for a rally. Along the way, hundreds of Turkish youths rushed up to the hearse, touching the cars and yelling: "Allah is great" and "Turkey is great".

Several organisers carrying loudspeakers called for crowd discipline in German and Turkish, aware that many Turks born in Germany have integrated so well that they no longer speak their native tongue.

One German onlooker who paid special attention to the crowd reaction was Friedrich Düve, an opposition Social Democratic MP who represents Hamburg. He said that many were beginning to realise that "if Hamburg cannot live without foreigners and if foreigners cannot live in Hamburg then what is our future to be?"

Although Mr Düve supports changes in the country's asylum laws, he added that the debate is poorly based in the wake of racist violence which many Germans have tied together.

"The fear of the millions to come has destroyed the peace of the millions who are here. The chancellor should have come here to give a positive signal to foreigners and to Turkey."

Perils of Gorbachev shadow Yeltsin

FROM ANNE MCILVOY IN MOSCOW

IN THE days of President Gorbachev's perestroika, Russian democrats used to joke that the more talk there was about restructuring the economy, the less it actually took place. The notion of change had, after initial enthusiasm, become little more than a totem.

The case of Boris Yeltsin's ambitious programme of market reform, though, is a different matter. There is much more enthusiasm for theoretical arguments about how to approach reform than there is for executing it.

Radicals like Yegor Gaidar, the acting prime minister, are hampered by lack of experience in industry which is dominated by the old Soviet elite more likely to be sympathetic to Civic Union's nostrums of state-investment and planned transition to the market.

Mr Gaidar, an academic economist, has been quick to grasp the tenets of Western-style management, but has been accused of having too much faith in the recommendations of American textbooks and the advice of foreign "Mr Fixits" like Jeffrey Sachs, Harvard's professor of economics who, critics say, can afford to dispense prescriptions of austerity, not having to live with the social and political consequences.

In the run-up to the decisive Congress of People's Deputies next week, politicians have been quarrelling endlessly about the economy, but the theme is little more than an ideological football kicked across the parliamentary divide.

The conservative parliament yesterday confirmed its opposition to continuing radical reforms by urging ministers to rethink them without deigning to say what alternative it would consider feasible. Both radical and conservatives throw out "anti-crisis plans" and "stabilisation measures" on a regular basis — cultural vestiges of the old Soviet love of lengthy, useless documents. But when the rhetoric is discarded, their platforms are often little more than rival slogans. The government's ambitious half-year programme claims that it will boost spending on social welfare and stimulate output while keeping down inflation.

Party verdict: The constitutional court will announce its verdict in the trial of the Communist Party on Monday. The court also will begin judging President Yeltsin's ban on the National Salvation Front.

This is the fourth article previewing Tuesday's meeting of People's Deputies

Open deal, page 19

Arabs expect little justice from French courts

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

SOMEWHAT the worse for drink, Roger Maillard reached for his revolver when he was woken up by noisy youths in the street outside his window in the Paris suburb of Neuilly-sur-Marne. The retired soldier fired out the window, killing Khemissi Karer, an Arab teenager, and then went back to sleep.

Mr Maillard's trial for murder, which opened on Thursday at the Seine-Saint-Denis assizes, would seem banal were it not for the certainty among many young French Arabs that he will walk free. Two weeks ago a jury in Rheims acquitted Marie-José Garnier, a baker who had fired a rifle from the hip, killing one of a group of young *harkis*, the Algerians who immigrated after fighting for France, because she believed they were stealing croissants.

Les Epinettes, a poor district of Rheims, suffered three nights of disturbance by angry *harkis*. Anti-racist campaigners bitterly recalled President Mitterrand's remark during the Los Angeles riot last May that a Rodney King case was impossible in France. But there was little of the public emotion which greeted the acquittal of the white police officers who assaulted the black motorist there.

This judgment symbolises the racist gangrene which is eating away at our country," said the leaders of the SOS Racism rights organisation. Meanwhile, Jean-Marie Le Pen's National Front is raising money to pay the civil damages awarded against Mme Garnier, the *boulangère de Rheims*.

The Rheims verdict and the mild public reaction to it have demonstrated the depth to which racial animosity and fear of crime have penetrated

French society. France has so far been spared the vicious and sustained attacks on foreigners seen in Germany and Spain.

The Rheims and Neuilly-sur-Marne killings took place in 1989 and 1990. But an accumulation of ugly incidents suggest increasing hostility towards foreigners, from blacks and Arabs to gypsies and East Europeans. Marie-Claire Mendès-France, widow of the former statesman, said this week she felt as if she was reliving the 1930s. "One used to hear the same words of discrimination and we know where they led."

In Mulhouse last Saturday, vandals wrecked 58 graves in a French Muslim military cemetery. In Calais, the authorities have acted to quell a public panic over groundless rumours of child murders, supposedly by an Arab.

The National Front rumbles on with its overtly racist

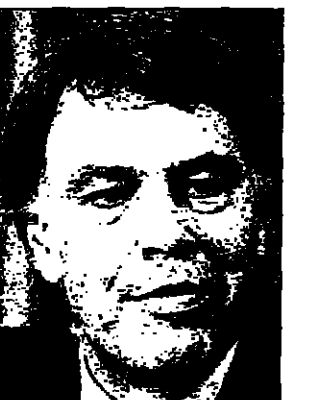


Le Pen: paid damages awarded against racist

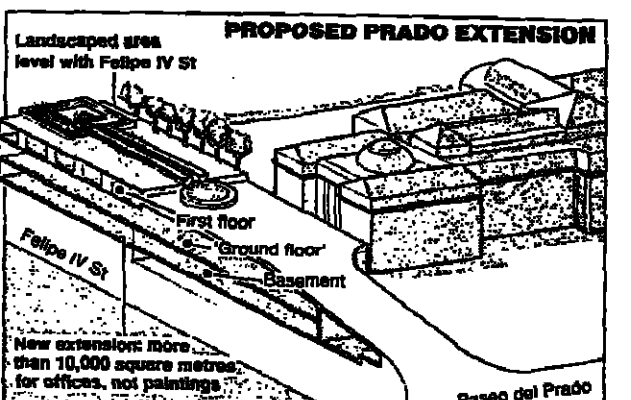
ideology and support from about 15 per cent of the electorate, and a tinge of anti-Semitism has come to colour the political furor over *l'affaire du sang*, the scandal over the distribution of HIV-contaminated blood. M Mitterrand, who visited Israel this week, has accused the conservative opposition of trying to

Prado paints itself into a tight corner with new extension

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID



For art's sake: Gonzalez, who approved grant for the gallery's extra space



A public debate as fierce as that which developed in Britain over the original plans to extend the National Gallery looms in Spain after the Socialist government of Felipe Gonzalez this week approved a plan to enlarge the venerable Prado. The project was not open to public tender or international competition and will not solve the museum's main problem, lack of space to hang its huge collection.

This year the Prado has had to play second fiddle to the fanfares sounded for the unveiling of first the Reina Sofia Art Museum's permanent collection of 20th-century Spanish art, and then the ostentatious debut of the Thyssen collection in a palace initially bought for the Prado. The main problem there is that there are more paintings,

about 3,000, in storage than on display. Last week Jordi Solé Tura, the culture minister, announced that the government was prepared to pay 60 per cent of the 2,300 million peseta (£13 million) cost of a project by the architect Francisco Rodriguez Partearroyo, to extend the museum by 10,554 square

metres with a three-storey bunker attached to the north facade. But José Angel Sanchez Astain, the president of the Prado board, and Felipe Garín, the museum's director, face a Dos de Mayo-style firing squad because the scheme is mainly for offices and public amenities. Only 1,500 square metres of space

would become available in the old building, which has a total useful area 20 times larger.

Enrique Dominguez Uceda, a Spanish architect, said in the Madrid paper *El Mundo* this week: "The fact is that the best building in Madrid is going to suffer a fresh insult. Considering the importance of this project, it seems incon-

prehensible that they have not called a competition for ideas about the enlargement of the state's main museum." The minister admits the project solves the problem of space for services but does not resolve the problem of space for paintings. He said there were still plans to annex the palace now occupied by the philistines of the ministry of agriculture where the Old Masters might appreciate the bouquet of Spain's wine lake.

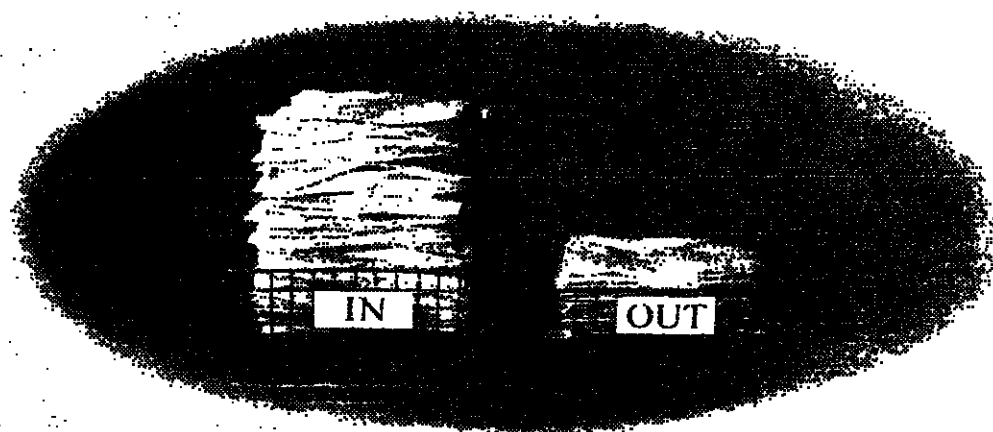
The Prado director argues that with up to 2.5 million visitors a year, the planned extension would provide one main fee-paying vestibule with shops and a cafeteria. At present admission is free through several entrances. The relocation of offices from the old building would eliminate the security problem of business visitors traipsing past the masterpieces to see museum staff.

The latter will have more room to hang temporary exhibits and restore pictures.

The project is similar in concept to the underground entrance to Stonehenge. Its location at the north end of the Prado is where the street level rises higher than the Prado's lower floors and the only loss would be an unsightly car park.

In the present corrupt climate, the attempted fait accompli by the Prado authorities seems more like Bosch than Goya. Recently a Spanish minister admitted that construction contracts were never signed without money on the table and another museum director was accused by a security contractor of demanding a commission. Señor Garín may now get more than he bargained for when he says he hopes the scheme will provoke debate.

Saturday Review, page 22



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overs). Pakistan won by one run

Rebels try to topple Caracas government

Pérez: says he will see out his term of office

Unscheduled broadcast: Venezuelan troops fire at a television station seized by rebel soldiers during an attempted coup in Caracas yesterday

repeated opposition demands that he cut short his term of office, promising to remain in power until he is due to hand over in early 1994.

Officials said the West had satisfied every Libyan request. The suspects would not be tortured, they would not be tried in America if acquitted in Scotland, they could be detained in detention and would have Scottish legal procedure explained to them. "There are no further conditions," they said.

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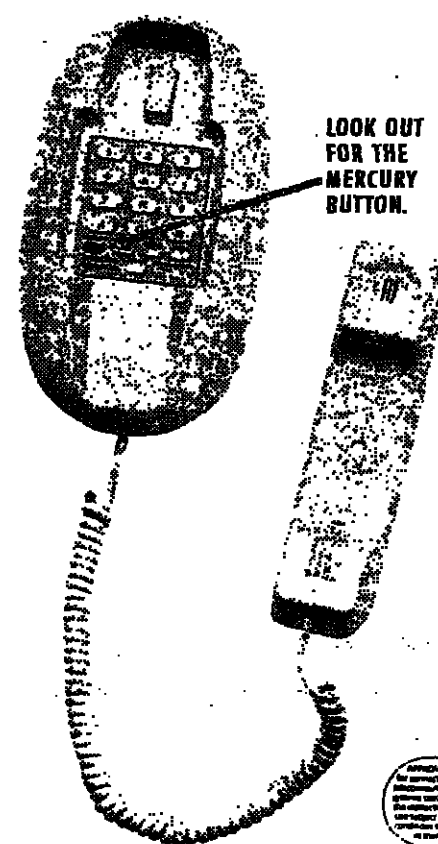
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Figure 1 is a line graph showing the percentage of total catch versus the number of hauls for various fish species. The x-axis is labeled 'Number of hauls' and ranges from 0 to 10. The y-axis is labeled 'Percentage of total catch' and ranges from 0 to 100. The legend indicates: 1.0 = 100%, 0.5 = 50%, 0.2 = 20%, 0.1 = 10%, 0.05 = 5%, 0.02 = 2%, 0.01 = 1%, 0.005 = 0.5%, 0.002 = 0.2%, 0.001 = 0.1%.

Hong Kong defies China with cash for airport

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN HONG KONG

HONG Kong's legislative council last night narrowly agreed to provide the government with funds to continue preparations for the building of its new airport at Chek Lap Kok.

By 27 votes to 25, the council's finance committee voted to permit £567 million to be injected into the Provisional Airport Authority to enable it to award contracts for site preparations — preliminary runway and terminal construction. China says the project, which is tied up with the row over democratic reform in Hong Kong, is too expensive, and has urged members of the council to reject it. Peking says if Britain goes ahead without its consent it will be breaking an agreement on the project signed by John Major, the prime minister, last year. During almost

six hours of debate, punctuated by procedural wrangles, members questioned the future status of the project if agreement with China is not forthcoming. But Hamish Macleod, the financial secretary said the government had not received any formal approach from China not to proceed.

"We are taking a step by step approach," said Mr Macleod. "I have been trying to keep avenues open for talks. For me to start discussing possible scenarios beyond this next step will achieve precisely the opposite of what I believe most members want, which is to carry out constructive talks with China and reach a sensible agreement."

Before the vote, Mr Macleod said that he could not see a situation where it would involve coming back to the finance committee for more funds before agreement was reached with China. Even without Peking's backing, the Hong Kong government should be able to continue work for two years. China may be using the issue of its support for the project to attempt to pressure Chris Patten, the governor, to back down on his democratic reform package.

Members of the legislative council who support Mr Patten's reform plans also support the continuation of work on the Chek Lap Kok project. The Chinese have given no official indication of what they will do if Hong Kong does proceed with the airport development.

The island of Chek Lap Kok, site of an airport scheduled one day to handle 87 million passengers annually, is so quiet that a visitor can hear a bird chirping in woods half a mile away — woods to be bulldozed into dust.

It is an article of faith with Mr Patten that the £12.5 billion project will be built before he leaves the territory at the handover of Hong Kong to China in 1997. Chinese officials, and the pro-China lobby in Hong Kong, believe that the new airport across the border in Shenzhen serve Hong Kong just as well.

The deadlock has lasted since last April, stalling work on one of the most daring and costly construction projects on earth. A 21-mile highway and a high-speed railroad will link the 21st century facility to the centre of Hong Kong by one of the world's longest suspension bridges. Ultra-modern towns will be built along its route.

□ Tokyo: Several Japanese companies have won contracts to work on the new airport, Mr Patten told businessmen here (Joanna Pitman writes).

Amnesty calls for ANC trials

FROM MICHAEL HAMKIN IN JOHANNESBURG

AMNESTY International, the London-based human rights organisation, has called for the governments of Angola, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia to prosecute officials of the African National Congress for human rights abuses.

The Amnesty report documents a long-standing pattern of torture, ill-treatment and execution of prisoners by the ANC's security department. It shows that this pattern of abuse was allowed to go unchecked by the ANC's leadership in exile and by the African frontline states.

For the first time since they broke down six months ago, the South African government and the ANC have agreed to resume talks on constitutional reform. The two sides will meet on Wednesday for three days to discuss a seven-item agenda. A second round of talks is planned for early January.

Muhammad Valli Moosa, an ANC executive member, said of Mr de Klerk's new timetable for the talks: "We do consider it to be a victory in that this is the first time we have been able to get this government to commit itself to a time frame."

However, the ANC believes that the first fully multiracial elections could be held within nine to 12 months instead of by March or April 1994 as Mr de Klerk proposes.

Peace envoy chosen as UK ambassador

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S foreign affairs ministry has confirmed that Moshe Raviv, a senior career diplomat with extensive service in Britain, has been appointed ambassador to London.

As part of a general shake-up of ambassadorial posts, Mr Raviv, 57, the deputy director-general responsible for information, is expected to take up his new post in the summer of next year. Mr Raviv, a self-



Raviv: conspicuous in Middle East talks

confessed anglophile, graduated in international relations from the University of London in 1961, returning to Britain later that year to take up his first posting as a second secretary. He also served as minister from 1983 to 1988.

He was born in Bukovina, Romania, and came to Israel when the state was

founded in 1948, has had broad experience in the diplomatic service. He worked for Golda Meir and Abba Eban, Israel's best-known foreign ministers, and has also served in Washington and Manila.

Although his duties have covered Europe, Asia and America, he has most recently been conspicuous in Israel's team to the Middle East peace talks, where he is co-chairman of the multilateral talks on the environment. He has been in charge of co-ordinating foreign policy for Israel's various missions.

Mr Raviv will have to sacrifice much of the privacy he and his family enjoy in Jerusalem. He will become the subject of the necessary, but intrusive, security measures imposed by Scotland Yard and Israeli security on all Israel's ambassadors in London.

Although London is considered one of the most prestigious ambassadorial postings, nobody in Israel has forgotten the fate of Shlomo Argov, the ambassador who was shot in the head and critically wounded by a Palestinian gunman in 1982.

□ International role: Israel has agreed to join United Nations' peacekeeping forces for the first time, a foreign ministry spokesman said. (Reuter)

Leading article, page 15



Big match: Takahanada, a sumo wrestler, and Rie Miyazawa, an actress, officially announcing their engagement in Tokyo yesterday. Dressed in matching pale pink kimonos and walking hand in hand, the two were greeted by flashbulbs from 600 cameramen and reporters. Takahanada, 6 ft 1 in and weighing in at 292 lbs, is the darling of the sumo world, credited

with almost singlehandedly restoring the popularity of the sport. Miss Miyazawa, 19, last year starred in a best-selling nude photograph collection. (Reuter)

Unita rebels agree to lay down arms

BY SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

REBEL officials of the Union for Total Independence of Angola yesterday agreed with the Angolan government to end the fighting that has threatened to plunge the country back into civil war.

The deal, struck by senior Unita delegates in Namibia on the southern coast, was followed by a veiled threat that the government would attack the rebels if they did not begin disarming immediately. Fernando Dias de Piedade dos Santos, the deputy interior minister who headed the hardline government delegation, said that Unita would "have to face the consequences" if it again violated the May 1991 peace accords and truce.

Jorge Valentim, for Unita, was anxious to appear conciliatory although the movement, forged during 16 years of civil war by Jonas Savimbi with South African and American backing, occupies about 60 per cent of the country. "It was a good start. This historic meeting was characterised by frankness, co-operation and harmony in debate," he said after the meeting, organised by the United Nations and observed by Portugal, Ango-

la's former colonial power, the United States and Russia.

Mr dos Santos' insistence that Unita soldiers return to demobilisation camps will have to be matched by a similar commitment to peace from the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA). The MPLA has armed tens of thousands of civilians since the Angolan election process collapsed last month when it became clear that Unita had lost, alleging that the process had been fraudulent. Dr Savimbi has since accepted the results, but remains adamant that they were a fix.

Thousands died in fighting at the end of last month, sparked by violence and intimidation by both sides and many of Unita's high command were killed. There were no concrete proposals in the latest agreement on how each side would demobilise. Unless this is done there will not be peace in Angola.

In Luanda, President dos Santos announced last night that Marcelino Moco, the MPLA secretary-general, would be prime minister of a new transitional government, to be sworn in on Tuesday.

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The election and referendum prove that the Republic's largest party and its church are in parallel decline, says Conor Cruise O'Brien

Slow collapse of the Irish colossus

The next Dublin government in Ireland will be either a coalition or a minority government — conceivably, both. Fianna Fáil's bid to win an overall majority has failed, as has every such attempt since 1979. Instead of winning seats, Fianna Fáil has actually lost some. Its share of the vote, at 39 per cent, is now the lowest since 1927, at the beginning of its parliamentary career. The swing against it in this election is in the region of 5 per cent. Yet it remains by far the largest party in the Dáil and the country. It is in a steady but slow decline, and still exceedingly formidable.

Three types of coalition are now possible. Fianna Fáil and the Progressive Democrats (like the last government but with one significant modification, to be considered below); Fianna Fáil and Labour; and finally Fine Gael, Labour and the Progressive Democrats: the so-called "rainbow coalition". In theory a fourth possibility exists: Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael. In practice, this is not on. Fianna Fáil's *raison d'être* is to be different from Fine Gael, and more patriotic

than it. The issues that evolved in the civil war that followed the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 have long since faded. Very few people could now even correctly state what they were. But the party traditions that developed in the wake of that civil war are very much alive, especially in Fianna Fáil.

No Fianna Fáil leader who agreed to coalition with Fine Gael — even if Fine Gael would agree — could survive the subsequent commotion inside his party. Many party members would feel that such a coalition robbed them of something essential to their self-respect: the sense of being better Irish men than those fellows over there.

Albert Reynolds would not be likely to agree to a coalition with Fine Gael, but even so he is unlikely to survive as leader of Fianna Fáil. Even if there is a coalition with Fianna Fáil in it, neither of the possible partners would want to

serve under Albert Reynolds as taoiseach. And many — probably most by now — of his own party don't want him either. The former Haughey ministers have been waiting to get him over since he became taoiseach. His disastrous misjudgment in precipitating a general election in which Fianna Fáil lost seats provides them with a golden opportunity. He is likely to go down as the shortest-serving leader of Fianna Fáil, and taoiseach, in history.

It is Dick Spring's Labour Party which will do most to decide the composition of the next government. Labour's gains have surprised even themselves. They have done well throughout the country, but they have triumphed in Dublin: hitherto dominated by Fianna Fáil. Labour topped the poll in almost all the Dublin constituencies. It is significant that a high proportion of the successful Labour candidates



Dick Spring: surprising gains

who topped the poll in Dublin are women. Labour identified a distinct women's vote and targeted it. This paid off. It is being noted with surprise that Labour swept the middle-class Dublin suburbs, traditionally difficult terrain for Labour.

as I know from personal experience.

I believe this was mainly due to Fianna Fáil's folly in combining the elections with the referendum on abortion. "Pro-choice" people — and in Dublin that means most women and many men — were outraged at the referendum proposition, which ruled out abortion (in the Republic) in cases where only the health, and not the life, of the mother was endangered, and which specifically excluded the threat of suicide. In putting that proposition before Dubliners, while simultaneously calling for their votes, Fianna Fáil was looking for trouble, and got it.

What happened in the Dublin suburbs was similar to what happened in the American suburbs in this month's presidential election there. "We were murdered," acknowledged one Republican analyst, "by middle-class republican

women in the suburbs deserting the Bush ticket in droves." That was over the anti-abortion plank in the platform endorsed by the Houston Convention. The anti-abortion proposition in the Irish referendum had a similar effect, though on a less spectacular scale. Fianna Fáil, even in Dublin, was not exactly murdered, but it lost its dominance there, and is never likely to recover. That will do to be going on with.

In the referendum, the proposition on "freedom of travel" (for abortion, unstated) and "freedom of information" (about abortion, unstated) were both carried by large majorities. The anti-abortion (in Ireland) proposition was defeated by a narrower majority but still convincingly. The vote against the anti-abortion proposition included, as well as "pro-choice" people, the more fanatical "pro-life" people who regarded it as wrong, for permitting abortion in Ireland in

cases where the life of the mother was threatened. But many, perhaps most, "pro-life" people, probably voted for the proposition.

Although some individual bishops, including the Archbishop of Dublin, had come out against all three propositions, the hierarchy collectively had left the matter, unusually, to the conscience of the faithful. Taken together, the results of the three referenda are eminently satisfactory to the "pro-choice" people, and a pleasing contrast to the two-to-one vote by which the electorate, nine years ago, inserted the anti-abortion proposition into the constitution.

Overall, the results of the election and of the referenda suggest that the two most powerful institutions in Ireland — the Catholic Church and the Fianna Fáil party — are in slow but terminal decline. Both are ceasing to be credible. Both are slowly retreating into the West. Fianna Fáil's best electoral showing this week was in "pro-life" strongholds. It is only a matter of time, perhaps, before the prohibitions of divorce and of abortion are both removed from the constitution.

Nobody move: America's shut

Waiting for a president is proving irksome, writes Ben Macintyre

The American government is closed for renovation until January 20, 1993. An air of pregnant uncertainty has enveloped Washington, caught in the 11-week twilight zone that is the transition between the election and the inauguration of a new president. Throughout the capital telephone calls remain unanswered, everyone who is anyone (or wants to be) is headily eyeing the comings and goings in Little Rock, and even the White House guards seem like traffic wardens on a lunch break.

There is surely no more peculiar event in the American political calendar than the transition, when the American bureaucracy enters a tense, unproductive and astonishingly expensive limbo: initiatives are on ice, decisions are on hold and the thousands of officials who run America are on tenterhooks, more concerned about their own future than that of the nation.

Of all the people effectively rendered obsolete while America changes political gears, none is more gloomy and irascible than George Bush. The interregnum is too long, he was heard to mutter recently, "too ungenerous and too long." Margaret Thatcher took just four days to pack her bags and leave Downing Street, but Mr Bush is forced to wait for what must seem like eternity, as the new political curtains are metaphorically measured around him.

Edwin Meese, former attorney-general, once compared outgoing presidents to leaking balloons. George Bush is certainly not wearing what he calls his "lame duckness" well.

The hiatus of transition is in some ways an awesome phenomenon, a tribute to a democracy so ingrained, a power so monolithic that it can be put into suspended animation for nearly three months.

But as Democratic Senator Sam Nunn, chairman of the senate armed services committee and possible future Secretary of Defence, observed this week after returning from a meeting with Boris Yeltsin, the western world does not have "the luxury of declaring a recess while we change administrations". America is on automatic pilot, but the rest of the world is not.

The problem is partly one of politeness: George Bush does not want to seem to be foisting important policy decisions on his successor, and Bill Clinton does not want to impinge on the president's authority. The result is genteel stasis, frustrating for both sides. The length of the transition is an anachronism, left over from the

days when simply travelling to the capital could take weeks. (In 1933 the period was reduced from five months to 11 weeks: the gap between Hoover and Roosevelt had caused a financial panic.)

Congress has set aside some \$3.5 million for the transition (the mini think-tanks — "policy pods" and "transition clusters" — shaping the Clinton administration are expensive), a sum many consider excessive.

Richard Neustadt, an adviser to Truman and Kennedy, now a Harvard professor, described the process for *The New York Times*: "Large groups of ex-campaigners wandering around Washington terrorising civil servants. They all turn in reports... and those reports usually get filed in a wastebasket. And that's the end of that."

Meanwhile, the nation's capital has turned to the delicate dance of job-hunting, the American political equivalent of a Victorian marriage proposal which requires a bride or appointee to appear graciously surprised when the question is finally popped, despite months, or even years, of active angling.

Since no one, except Bill Clinton's chosen few, really has any idea yet who will make up Clinton's cabinet, second-guessing has become the prime, indeed sole occupation of many of Washington's chattering political classes. The frustrations of the transition have affected both the incoming and outgoing presidents. When photographers used catnip to lure Socks the cat away from the governor's mansion in Little Rock, Bill Clinton officially declared himself "furious" for the first time.

Unlike Jimmy Carter, George Bush has no Tehran hostage crisis with which to occupy his waning moments. He has gone through the motions of foreign policy, notably the EC trade agreement and the decision to send troops to Somalia, but his mind is only half on the job.

The strain of an 11-week ritual humiliation, "the endless endings with no startings", as one aide called it, is taking its toll on the courtly George Bush. He vowed to go out "in style" but he is going out in silence and gloom.

In 1840-41 Martin Van Buren, a Democrat, vacated the White House and set a standard for insouciance in defeat. He was, said a White House observer, "calm and untroubled as the bottom of a lake under the tranquil influence of a summer's sun". What a remarkable actor he must have been.

He will concentrate instead on the other major players of the past 20 years, including Joe Gormley, Scargill's predecessor, his lieutenants during the strike, Peter Heathfield, the then general secretary of the NUM, and Mick McGahey, his communist former deputy.

Sir Ian MacGregor, the coal board chairman, and Peter Walker, who was energy secretary during the strike, are likely to figure. Routledge says: "Arthur is an entertaining man, a fine mimic and storyteller. He used to do a brilliant impersonation of MacGregor — the geriatric American butcher as he called him."

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Crowning the castle's glory

The chance to add a modern touch to a rebuilt Windsor should not be passed over

In February 1789, the young Fanny Burney went walking in Kew. She had been warned on no account to encounter the King, George III, then supposedly mad and incarcerated in Kew Palace. To her horror, she rounded a bend and saw him before her, his doctors in attendance. "Miss Burney! Miss Burney!" he called. She turned and fled. He pursued her round the gardens: "Heaven how I did run." Only when his attendants implored her did she stop. When the breathless king caught up with her, she was much surprised. He seemed quite normal. "Why did you run so?" the poor man asked.

This week the British monarchy chased after its public, caught up with it and declared itself normal. Fine. As for the royal finances, never was a topic more thoroughly demystified, upended and torn apart. *Requiescat in pace*. After the horrors of the past year, perhaps the royal family can be left alone.

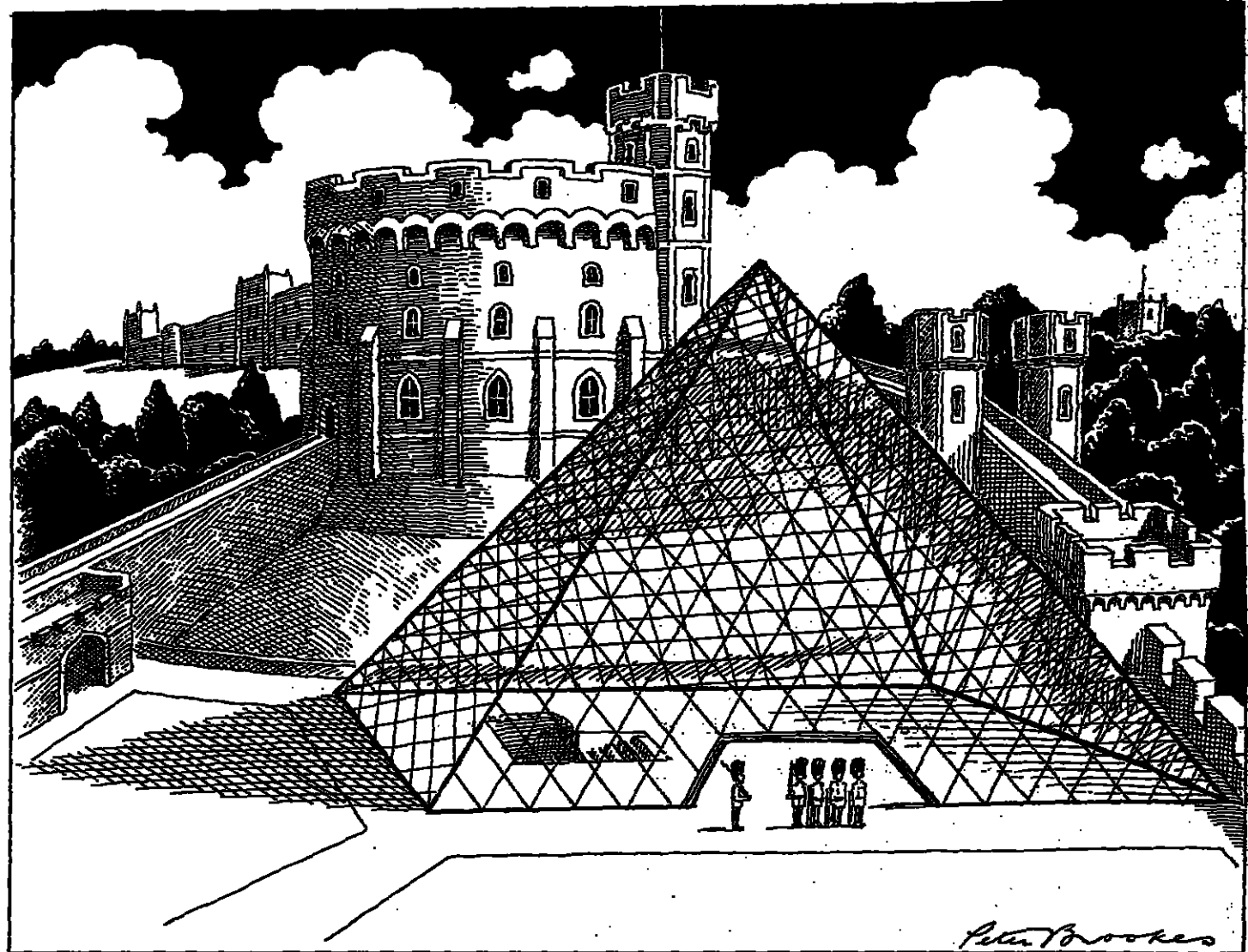
SIMON JENKINS

But not quite yet. There is the small matter of Windsor. Queens may come and queens may go, but royal palaces are for all time. As the heritage minister Peter Brooke has said, Windsor Castle is a royal home but also a charge on the state. If the state is paying the piper, it should be permitted to suggest a few tunes.

The restoration of Windsor Castle will be a landmark in the history of modern taste. The restoration of Hampton Court was not such: the Wren building was a unity and reinstatement of the damaged rooms was feasible and clearly right. So too was the case with York Minster and Uppark, and even with the classical infilling of Trafalgar Square.

Windsor's exterior falls into the same category. Here is one of the great picturesque skylines of Europe. No matter that its outline is not medieval but mostly the 1824 design of Sir Jeffrey Wyatville, who even added 30ft to the Round Tower. The effect is supremely beautiful. Seen from the Slough bend of the M4, Windsor floats on a cloud of Thames mist, the fairy tale castle of a monstrous monarch.

But what to do with Wyatville's lesser rooms is a deliciously problematic. Here in the east corner of the Upper Ward is a pile of charred rubble. The challenge is roughly similar to what confronted Wyatville after he had demolished the Restoration and older apartments. His St George's Hall was a gigantic medieval revival. The dining and drawing rooms were conventional Regency interiors, some of them altered later.



Once this wing of the castle has been investigated, should we reinstate all that can be recalled, or fill some or all of these spaces with modern designs? What we have lost is fine but not an architectural masterpiece, though St George's Hall is certainly a most "historic" room. There must be a difference of degree between old buildings that deserve conservation when standing and those so important as to merit recreation even when destroyed. Some of the Restoration and 12th-century work at Windsor is believed to have been uncovered by the fire. If so, which of the many "Windsors" should we reinstate?

Newspaper letters columns have already been humming. The dozen of Brighton Pavilion, John Morley, declares that not to restore Wyatville's work would be "cultural barbarism". Many cite the postwar reconstruction of Warsaw or the recreation of "colonial" Williamsburg. On the other hand, the Royal Institute of British Architects wants to get its hands on Windsor, dismissing Wyatville's work as

"Victorian pastiche". (It is neither: why does the RIBA, sponsor of so much past ugliness, have to clothe its greed in philistinism?) Others have more modestly called for a competition and a review of what rooms a modern palace really needs.

Twenty years ago, the outcome of this debate would have been unanimous and harsh. Modern architecture was incapable of such sensitive infilling. Not since Lutyens had an architect delivered the richness and decorative splendour of a great palace. The tradition of regular enhancement that made England's palaces and cathedrals an exhilarating kaleidoscope of style seemed exhausted. The ugliness of the Modern Movement, exasperated public and Prince of Wales alike. Preservation triumphed by default.

The battles that have followed the advent of "postmodernism" in the 1980s — as over Venetia's National Gallery — ended not in defeat of

one side or the other but in diversity. (Connoisseurs of die-hard Modernism should hurry to the Tate's Turner Prize show this week: lumps of iron, fish and dirty underpants, "helping to define the space in which they exist". What has the English language come to?) Architecture is now more eclectic, certainly more exciting. Public and private buildings alike have emerged from the freezer: Whitfield's health department in Whitehall, Farrell's Seven Dials in Covent Garden, Gough's Bryansons, Hopkins's Financial Times, Dixon's plan for the Royal Opera, Porphyrios's for Magdalen College. Can architects such as these not rise to the challenge of the Windsor interiors?

When George IV sought to rebuild his castle, Wyatville defied Nash and Smirke in competition. He destroyed too much for our liking, as Barry destroyed what was left of the old Palace of Westminster. But such destructiveness arose not from insensitivity to the past — the Gothic revival was thoroughly

antiquarian — but from confidence in the present's ability to surpass the past.

We reject the destructive side of that confidence. We move too fast. We need mementoes as links in the chain of history. This does not make us "age snobs" or "heritage nuts". We are simply sensitive to our surroundings, geographical and historical. To lack this sensitivity is to be mean of spirit. But where, at Windsor, the past has tragically gone, we really should offer some contribution to the historical melody of royal taste.

I am sure the damaged exterior and St George's Hall should be reinstated. But for the remaining rooms, if George IV could stomach a competition, could not the Prince of Wales? Architecture competitions have their risks, but they are a splendid stimulus to public taste. And what better way for the prince to show himself an ardent sponsor of modern design? If the outcome is the total reinstatement of Wyatville, nothing is lost. But it would be a poor comment on our age.

King Arthur courted

ARTHUR SCARGILL'S rehabilitation is complete. From being the trade union leader everybody used to love to hate, Scargill has now become a commercially marketable commodity.

HarperCollins, sensing the sea change in attitude to the NUM leader, has commissioned the first serious in-depth biography of the man who led the miners to a disastrous defeat at the hands of Mrs Thatcher.

It is being written by Paul Routledge, political correspondent of *The Observer*, who was a friend of Scargill's in the 1970s. "It was a time when Scargill cultivated the media more than he does now," Routledge says.

Since the débacle of the government's pit closure programme, Scargill has become an almost respectable figure. Indeed, his calls for support for his members led even the lords and ladies of Cheltenham to take to the streets in sympathy.

Earlier this week, Scargill rejected a request to be interviewed for the book, saying it would be "unfair and untrue" to co-operate as he had refused all other would-be biographers. But Routledge is un-

daunted. He will concentrate instead on the other major players of the past 20 years, including Joe Gormley, Scargill's predecessor, his lieutenants during the strike, Peter Heathfield, the then general secretary of the NUM, and Mick McGahey, his communist former deputy.

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be helpful for me to tell you my personal feelings about Scargill."

HarperCollins will publish the book next autumn, at the same time as its other blockbuster, Baroness Thatcher's memoirs, which will no doubt devote a chapter to the coal strike.

● Having been a humble backbencher since being sacked from the Cabinet in 1987, John Biffen has been rewarded. Biffen has for the first time been voted most impressive backbencher in a Mori poll of MPs. Polling 32 per cent, a 22 per cent rise on last year, Biffen had almost double the number of votes of Dennis Skinner, the runner up. Biffen, a former leader of the House, was famously described as "semi-detached" in a Downing Street lobby briefing, shortly before being sacked.

Gruesome exit

TO mark the start of the single market, on January 1, the Hyatt Carlton Tower hotel in London is holding a "Best of Britain" weekend. It promises to be a gruesome affair for the last weekend of the year.

"Land of Hope and Glory" will replace the Hyatt's normal music. Staff will be dressed in patriotic red, white and blue uniforms. There will be teddy bears, carpet slippers and hot water bottles in every room. Bacon and eggs for breakfast. The merest mention of the word cappuccino will result in immediate expulsion.

Winston recalled

CROWN Prince Hassan of Jordan, who delivered the English Speaking Union's Churchill lecture at the Guildhall, recalled his one "brief and memorable" conversation with the great man. Hassan, who was standing in on Thursday night for his ailing brother King Hussein, will never forget the encounter.

On one of Churchill's pilgrimages back to his old school, Harrow, Hassan, a young pupil, was ushered into the headmaster's study. With the obligatory cigar in his mouth, Churchill looked the youngster up and down. "So," said



NESTA WYNN ELLIS (above) has discovered her idol has feet of clay. Her gushing biography of John Major left hardened political journalists reaching for the sick bag. She is now at work on another book about the prime minister, this time documenting his two years in office. The title? *The Road to Ruin*.

the man who negotiated the establishment of the Hashemite Kingdom, "your grandfather was bumped off in Jerusalem." The young prince could think of no suitable reply.

Lloyd's listing

AS THE clean-up operation continues at Windsor Castle, Christo-



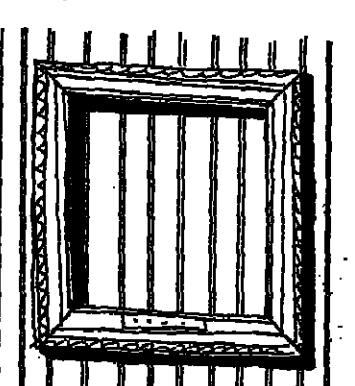
pher Lloyd, the Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures, has lent his support to a group of artists less well known than the ones whose work were destroyed in the great fire. Lloyd, who has worked round the clock supervising the clean-up, admitted it had been a very hard week. "I am surprised I am still standing."

But he has recovered sufficiently

to help his favourite aspiring contemporary artists show their work in the Discerning Eye Exhibition, which opened yesterday at London's Mall Galleries. Work by Sarah Armstrong-Jones, niece of his employer, was included in his selection.

Lloyd may well be buying some of the exhibits for his own grace-and-favour home near Buckingham Palace. "All four of my children have now grown up and left home taking their posters and pictures with them," he said.

Alas, Lloyd is unlikely to indulge his interest in Italian art. He says: "I am keen to collect modern abstract and drawings. Like everyone else, most of the time I can only afford prints."





THE BILL FOR MAASTRICHT

Britain's budget for the EC deserves a better hearing

In a remarkable break with tradition, the foreign and finance ministers of the European Community have managed to talk about money for two days in Brussels without more than a few drops of blood staining the carpets. Mr Lamont dared to put forward British presidency proposals for EC spending over the next seven years which would reduce its budget growth below levels envisaged by Jacques Delors. The EC president duly wheeled out his spokesman yesterday to denounce the British plans, without justification, as a mean-minded failure to "conform with the spirit of Maastricht". For once, M. Delors's siletto missed its mark.

Formally, there is deadlock. In practice, not only has Mr Lamont lived to tell the tale. He has firm support from Germany and The Netherlands. Italy and France support the principle of tight budgetary discipline, although France is toying with trading more money against support for obstructing a Gatt deal. The four poorest states in the EC — Greece, Spain, Portugal and Ireland — went through the motions of denouncing his plans, but with the main net contributors in broad agreement, they know they must bargain realistically. The opera is by no means over, but agreement on the EC seven-year budget at the Edinburgh summit now seems more likely than it did when the British assumed the presidency last July.

That is no mean achievement. The Maastricht treaty — because it commits the EC's richer states in principle to put up "convergence" money to help the four poorest qualify for monetary union by narrowing the economic gap — has exacerbated the underlying tensions in the EC between gainers and losers from EC spending. Mr Lamont has made a genuine effort to bridge this north-south gap.

M. Delors explicitly presented his "Delors II" package as the bill for Maastricht. Even in its most modest revised form, it would raise states' contributions to EC coffers from 1.2 per cent of overall gross national product to 1.32 per cent — from this year's 61 billion Ecu to Ecu 83 billion by 1999. The British

counter-proposal accepts that more money will be needed. It would probably trim the 1999 total in cash terms by only Ecu4 billion. But it would freeze the ceiling for contributions at 1.2 per cent for the first three years, and raise it only to 1.25 per cent by 1999. The EC would thus receive a smaller proportion of its members' wealth.

Where Mr Lamont has been politically astute is in carving up the total. Where the four poorest states are concerned, the British "cohesion fund" fund offer, at Ecu12.5 billion, is generous. Mr Lamont has offset that by taking an axe to M. Delors's plans for spending on research and development, and trans-European communications. Yesterday, M. Delors singled out for criticism Britain's proposals to trim back his plans to increase "structural" spending on poorer regions of the EC and on overseas aid. But yesterday was hardly the moment for him to swell with righteous indignation.

The latest report by the EC's Court of Auditors, published this week, yet again underlines how miserably inadequate is the commission's accounting control of its existing budget. Fraud and waste riddle not only the common agricultural policy, where the auditors picked out multi-million pound fraud subsidies to non-existent olive growers but also, as in the auditors' case of the super-highway through a remote Cameroon jungle, the EC aid programme. Mr Lamont is right to concentrate increases in development aid on humanitarian relief for Africa, and technical assistance for Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Since EC spending has yet to reach its existing ceiling, a three-year freeze is reasonable. Agreement on a new budget is still important, because the Twelve have, mistakenly, made negotiations on enlarging the Community's membership contingent on a deal. But not at the price set by M. Delors. With tax revenues shrinking and domestic spending rising across recession-hit Europe, Mr Lamont's insistence on budgetary discipline in Brussels deserves the serious hearing it got this week.

TIME FOR MERCY

2,200 days in solitary confinement are enough even for treason

The appointment of Moshe Raviv as Israel's ambassador this week is a cause for celebration. As a former minister, graduate of London University and noted Anglophile, Mr Raviv is especially well placed to strengthen the already intimate links between this country and his own. In that spirit of goodwill, it is to be hoped that he takes note of mounting British concern for the plight of Mordechai Vanunu, the imprisoned technician who revealed secrets of Israel's nuclear stockpile six years ago.

Mr Vanunu, whose descriptions of Israel's nuclear reactor centre at Dimona were published by *The Sunday Times* in October 1986, has been held in isolation for more than six years. His cell in Ashkelon Prison near Jerusalem measures 6ft by 10ft, with a drain hole that doubles as shower and lavatory. For the first two and a half years of his captivity, a video camera and fluorescent light flickered continuously above the prisoner.

Access to his family and lawyer is still severely restricted. His exercise is taken in a private yard, away from other prisoners. His health and mental condition are unstable. In 1989, Amnesty International described these circumstances as "cruel, inhuman [and] degrading", a conclusion that ordinary compassion would seem to require.

The humanitarian case for an improvement in these conditions is overwhelming. But the simplicity of that case has been obscured by the debate about the morality of the disenchanted technician's original action and Israel's response to his treachery.

From one corner (populated by a mixed

group of human rights activists and anti-nuclear campaigners), it has been argued that Mr Vanunu's original disclosures were a service to the international community and that his abduction from Rome by Israeli agents was an outrageous breach of international law. Those who support Israel's steadfast position in the case say that any state whose nuclear secrets were betrayed would have acted with equal vigour, and that it is unjust to single out a uniquely embattled friend and ally for criticism.

The British government would certainly have been enraged if Israel had criticised the 42-year sentence given to George Blake in 1961. Nations will always punish their traitors. But the punishment need not be one of systematic cruelty. Klaus Fuchs, the physicist who betrayed Britain's atomic secrets to the Russians, was allowed to give evening classes to his fellow inmates during his nine-year sentence.

Little positive can be achieved now by Mr Vanunu's continued isolation. What the whistle-blower had to tell to nuclear scientists in London. The claim that any relaxation of Vanunu's prison regime would jeopardise state secrets is a grim echo of the specious grounds used to keep Jewish refugees in the Soviet Union.

President Herzog should be asked to consider the full case for clemency. At least, the time has surely come for an improvement in prison conditions. As a noted humanitarian, he may conclude that 2,200 days in solitary confinement is punishment enough for even the most serious crime — and that justice is purest when seasoned by mercy.

HEAD OF THE QUEUE

Resources need to be pumped into brain research

The study of the brain, man's least understood organ, has been neglected since the time of Hippocrates. It is more than 300 years since William Harvey revealed the secret of the circulation of the blood. Yet, until a generation ago, little progress had been made in understanding the inside of man's head. The earliest discoveries about the way nerve cells communicate were made by scientists who are still working in universities today.

Partly this is because of the complexity of the brain. The heart is a relatively straightforward pump on which mechanical repairs can be performed, often with impressive results. Work on the brain is more complex, more demanding, and more risky.

The launch this week of a new charity, the Brain and Spine Foundation, seeks to increase awareness of work on the brain and raise funds for research. There are good reasons why this is needed. Neurological disorders are the commonest cause of disability in Britain, affecting one and a half million people. One million are treated in hospital every year for head injuries, more than 100,000 are admitted following strokes, and 30 million working days are lost each year as a result of back pain.

There have been successes in coping with this toll. Deaths from serious head injuries have fallen, as awareness has grown of the importance of getting medical help within the first "golden" hour. This has been

achieved without an increase in the number of people who survive only to endure a living death, paralysed and insensate. New drugs and surgical techniques have been developed to treat people with strokes, with promising results.

The availability of these techniques is, however, as limited as coronary bypasses were 20 years ago. Only 40 hospitals in the UK have brain specialists, a smaller proportion of our total medical manpower than in any other industrialised country. Even if the numbers were doubled overnight, only 10 per cent of the victims of strokes and head injuries would be seen by a specialist.

One consequence of low manpower is that fewer funds are available for teaching and research. Many doctors and nurses remain ignorant of the basic principles of the care of these patients. While most people have some idea of the symptoms of a heart attack, few know the warning signs of a stroke.

The return on higher investment would be substantial. Brain surgery, for all the skill required, is a crude process of cleaning clogged arteries and staunching bleeds. But it is more effective, less expensive and less dangerous than often thought. Every medical specialty will argue that it deserves more funds. But occasionally the pace of advance, and the scale of the need, demand an adjustment in the balance. When new resources become available, the head should be favoured over the heart.

UK responsibilities in the Balkans

From Lord Hylton and others

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("Playing at soldiers in Bosnia", November 25) is correct to repeat the warnings of many observers that UN operations in Bosnia are doomed. But that should not lead us to abdicate, as Mr Jenkins suggests, our responsibilities towards securing peace in the Balkans.

The war in Bosnia-Herzegovina is manifestly not a civil war. Bosnia was recognised as an independent, sovereign state by Britain, other EC states and much of the rest of the world on April 7, 1992. Serbian actions in the republic — which include "ethnic cleansing", repeated bombardment of Sarajevo and other towns, and forced partition — can only be seen as the aggression of one state against another.

Neither are all sides in the war equally guilty for the escalation of the conflict. The blame for the Bosnian war lies squarely with the regime of Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade. His designs for a "Greater Serbia", in which non-Serbs have no place, threaten not only Bosnia, but Macedonia and Kosovo too.

Unless decisive measures are taken, we will end up as spectators to a bloody Balkan war which will include Greece, Turkey (both Nato members), Albania and Bulgaria. We should not wait for that before we realise the dangers to our own security.

As winter takes hold, it is imperative that we act to relieve Bosnia and avoid a Balkan catastrophe. Bosnians, as US president-elect Bill Clinton has pointed out, have the right to defend themselves. We should therefore push for the exemption of Bosnia from the arms embargo against the former Yugoslav republics.

Given the failure of the EC's peace conference to reverse Serb gains, it is also necessary that Western air power be used to neutralise Serbian artillery and aerial bombardment. Those who doubt the wisdom of such a move should recall the London conference in August, when Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serb militants, agreed to remove his artillery within 96 hours; that pledge, as the fall of the strategic town of Jajce demonstrated, was worthless.

Finally, the EC should act to restore Bosnia as a multi-ethnic republic within its recognised borders.

Yours faithfully,
HYLTON,
PATRICK CORMACK,
RUSSELL JOHNSTON,
Action for Bosnia,
11 Bear Street, WC2,
November 25.

From Mr Fred Barschak and others

Sir, As a body, and as individuals many of whom were "ethnically cleansed" themselves some 50 years ago, we are horrified at the policy urged by Simon Jenkins — a policy which makes Neville Chamberlain's *cri de coeur* (Munich, 1938: "why should we fight for a country which is far away and of which we know little?") seem like a heroic clarion call to arms.

The Bosnian Muslims have lost, we are told; indeed they have, and

principally because of the total and disgraceful lack of support from the West; but that is not enough for Mr Jenkins. They are apparently to continue to suffer murder, rape, dispossession and ethnic cleansing on a massive scale, and ultimately to go into the long night of their own extinction, not gently, but without a murmur.

And we must not feel bad about abandoning them, it seems: indeed by leaving them to their fate we actually help to bring the war to an end, either by their expulsion or extinction or both! Might it not only be right, it is to be given a helping hand.

A policy based on such principles might help Her Majesty's government to justify its wholly inadequate response to the crisis. Even the urging of MPs to allow arms to be supplied to the Bosnian Muslims, so that they can at least defend themselves, produces the knee-jerk response that this would "escalate the conflict".

The corollary of that answer is, surely, that by not supplying the victims the means to defend themselves, and thereby contributing to their further murder, expulsion etc., you de-escalate the conflict.

Such considerations receive short shrift from Mr Jenkins. His remedy, in his own words, is "by seeking to sustain the losing side, however just its cause, interventionists merely prolong the agony". In other words, don't help, don't succour, be a bystander, but with a good conscience! And perhaps, when it is all over, Parliament will once again mark its concern with a further two minutes of silence, as it did on December 17, 1942, for the massacre of the Jews.

Mr Jenkins's proposition has at least the merit of clarity; but its total heartlessness represents the shame of our age and a warrant for genocide.

Yours etc,
FRED BARSCHAK,
BEN HELFGOTT,
AUBREY NEWMAN,
The National Yad Vashem
Charitable Trust,
Woburn House,
Tavistock Square, WC1.

From Wing Commander J. Deverill

Sir, Simon Jenkins's article is ill-founded. In your own pages in recent days you have carried reports on the excellent work being done by our troops in Bosnia, including the contribution by the Royal Engineers in opening up supply routes and the deployment of our armoured personnel carriers to protect a warehouse of relief supplies in Travnik (report, early editions, November 24).

As to the dangers and inconvenience, unless I am much mistaken, our men prefer to be digging out an APC from Bosnia mud rather than from the mud on Salisbury Plain, which is just as cold and unpleasant. Soldiers prefer to work for a worthwhile cause and take difficulties in their stride. You do not join the services for security and a soft life.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN DEVERILL,
52 Kings Road, Alton, Hampshire.

Opt-out harassment

From Mr Andrew Turner

Sir, Councillor Chris Adamson (letter, November 18) implies pique at one ballot result in south-west London as the motive for a "campaign" by the education secretary against harassment by local education authorities of schools which seek grant-maintained (GM) status. There is a mass of evidence to justify Mr Patten's action: In Newcastle recently children went home in tears from the feeder school of a school seeking GM status after being told, wrongly, that they would not be able to follow their siblings there.

Birmingham's education chairman criticised a council employee who was chairman of the governors of a school in a different local education authority (LEA) where parents voted for grant-maintained status.

In other cases postal votes have been improperly collected from ethnic-minority parents.

Arms for Iraq

From Mr Geoffrey Robinson, MP for Coventry North West (Labour)

Sir, In the heat of the arms-for-Iraq debate in Parliament (report, November 23) there is a grave danger that the crucial importance to the outcome of the trial of the disclosure of information subject to public interest immunity (PII) certificates will be underestimated. Both Mr Heseltine and Mr Rifkind said in the debate that the production of the evidence played no role whatsoever; and that it was solely the inconsistency in the testimony of Mr Alan Clark that destroyed the prosecution's case.

But that inconsistency would not have emerged if the judge had accepted the ministers' certificates and not made the PII documents available to the defence.

In justifying their signing the certificates, ministers have claimed they could not know what the defence's case would be. But they did know what the charges against the accused were; and anyone who had read the documents ought to have known that the charges would not stand up against the information withheld.

In Nottingham parents were told that free meals and support for special-needs pupils would not be available should a school become GM.

In Staffordshire heads' resignations have been demanded where they allegedly supported GM status.

In Hackney threats of legal action have been used to intimidate lay governors and a headteacher who rightly fear it could bankrupt them.

Many LEAs and most GM ballots provide no cause for concern. But the pressure on public servants by their employers, on volunteer governors by LEAs with the limitless resources of the poll-taxpayer at their command, and on the most vulnerable parents, ethnic minorities among them, is too great a challenge for a minister to ignore.

Your obedient servant,
ANDREW TURNER (Director),
Choice in Education,
36 Great Smith Street, SW1,
November 23.

Is then the ministers' defence that they were ignorant of the charges; or that they had not read or understood the documents they signed?

In any event, both their conduct and the proceedings in court are deeply disturbing. In the end the information was only obtained by the undermining of the defence's right to silence, by the tenacity of one defence counsel and the courage of one man determined to clear his name despite the grave risk to which he was exposing himself.

It can't be right to rely on such a combination of unacceptable and unpredictable factors to avoid a miscarriage of justice. I hope that the Scott enquiry will look into these matters, too.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY ROBINSON,
House of Commons,
November 24.

Weekend Money letters, page 28

Letters to the editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

Bridges across the Church divide

From the Canon Chancellor of Leicester Cathedral

Sir, The former Bishop of London, Graham Leonard, seeks a way for himself and others to "seek relationship with the Roman Catholic Church" (article, November 20) but I am puzzled by the stated desire to "preserve (their) Anglican identity". Surely, this is impossible.

The Anglican Communion has never been other than comprehensive. What identifies us as Anglicans is our willingness to hold in creative tension catholic, reformed, liberal and now pentecostal schools of thought. To leave this means leaving what is distinctively Anglican. So what is the separate identity that Bishop Leonard wants to preserve? It cannot be called "Anglican".

He mentions the continuing use of Anglican rites. This is odd as, in my experience, those who think his way use the Roman rite already. He mentions the recognition of Anglican orders, but if Rome were to do this, they would have to recognise the orders of all ordained Anglicans. It seems that the reason for preserving a separate identity is simply to keep together a fellowship of ex-Anglicans.

Should Bishop Leonard and others move to Rome, the Roman Catholic Church would undoubtedly be enriched and we should be the poorer. But I do hope the idea of a separate identity falls through. It is much more fun swimming with the rest in the main pool, whether it be Anglican or Roman.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL F. H. BANKS,
Chancellor's House,
3 Morland Avenue, Leicester.

From the Reverend Canon B. L. Hebblethwaite

Sir, I fear that the former Bishop of London compounds theological illiteracy — in thinking there to be a serious doctrinal issue behind the decision to ordain women priests — with sociological illiteracy in deeming the Church of England to have become a sect.

The distinction between church and sect, as refined by the theologian/sociologist Ernst Troeltsch at the turn of the century, clearly identifies the criteria of the "sect" type as a relatively closed community of "born-again" Christians, condemning the values and institutions of ordinary society.

The theologically sound and pastorally wise decision to endorse vocations to the priesthood irrespective of gender is therefore the very reverse of sectarian.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN HEBBLETHWAITE
(Dean), Queens' College, Cambridge.

From Dr R. T. Beckwith

Sir, Your editorial of November 21 is at variance with the account which you gave of an interview with Dr Graham Leonard, published the previous day. As you quite rightly said in your account of the interview, Dr Leonard is in effect calling for a united church to be formed in England for

former Anglo-Catholic clergy and congregations.

This is an entirely realistic suggestion, and deserves to be sympathetically considered by Anglo-Catholics alongside the other possibility of alternative episcopal oversight within the Church of England, even if conditional re-ordination were involved.

Far from being a medieval idea, the unite churches are very much alive today, and are indeed the chief reason for the tension which has recently arisen between the Orthodox and Rome in the former Soviet countries.

Moreover, certain Anglican congregations seem already to have been received into such a relationship by the Roman Catholic Church in the USA, and Dr Leonard is simply asking that the same should happen in England, though in a more organised way. As you reported, he had consulted Roman Catholics before making the proposal, and their initial response has been quite warm.

In a unite relationship, a church has separate episcopal oversight from other Roman Catholic churches, and within this it is allowed to retain much of its traditional liturgy and canon law, including often its married clergy. The price it pays is that it accepts the authority of the Pope and defined Roman Catholic doctrine in its entirety.

My impression of English Anglo-Catholics is that many of them (not all, and I am rather surprised to find Dr Leonard among them) would regard this as an easy price to pay. Being myself an evangelical, committed to the 39 Articles and prayer book left us by our reformers, I could not possibly pay it.

Yours faithfully,
R. T. BECKWITH (Warden),
Lafiter House,
131 Banbury Road, Oxford.

From Mrs Josephine Robinson

Sir, Pope John Paul II made it plain when he last visited the USA that the Roman Catholic Church has not, cannot and will not "ordain" women to the ministerial priesthood. Cardinal Hume said the decision of the Synod of the Church of England was a "new and additional obstacle" to ecumenical relations (report, November 12). Sister Myra Poole of the St Joan's International Alliance, which, according to their AGM in 1990, had 44 members, was reported last week as saying the Catholic Church will "ordain" women within 20 years.

We, the Association of Catholic Women, cheerfully believe our Pope and our cardinal rather than Sister Myra Poole. The church is not supposed to be about jobs for the boys or girls; it is not about seeking power, as Our Lord made plain. The male priesthood, as the icon of Christ, who was male, does not in any way weaken the inferiority of women.

I should think not!
Yours faithfully,
JOSEPHINE ROBINSON
(Chairman, Association of Catholic Women),
16 Cheyne Row, SW3.

Windsor Castle

From Mr Patrick Scrivenor

Sir, Today's letters from Stephen Greenberg, Mallory Wober and Michael Manser make the blood run cold.

How often have architects made promises like "modern methods... allow glass to be used architecturally on a scale and with a subtlety which would be the envy of the nineteenth-century pioneers"? How many architectural competitions have we endured? How often have modern architects used pretentious terminology like "replicated", "thin-skin pastiche" and "aesthetic failure"?

All too often and many, and the results have been brutal, ugly and invariably uninteresting. Are we to have a wing of Windsor Castle that looks like the *Economist* building, the Lloyd's building, or any of the countless modern structures that have made London one of the ugliest cities in Europe?

The Moderns have had their way with the London skyline. Let them leave the view from the M25 alone.

Yours sincerely,
PATRICK SCRIVENOR,
1 Bowzell Green Cottages,
Wald, Kent,
November 27.

On the beach

From Dr Steve Jones

Sir, Your diarist should have listened more carefully to last week's *Desert Island Discs* before writing his witty piece (November 21) accusing me of not knowing the name of the Secretary of State for Education. Had he done so he would have learned that it was a repeat of a programme first broadcast when Kenneth Clarke was indeed in that post. I requested the stuffed body of Mr Clarke as my luxury object.

John Patten *fori* would, I agree, be a less substantial item than would the present Home Secretary; but I am glad to repeat my offer to honour either of them in the fashion which they so clearly deserve.

Yours faithfully,
STEVE JONES,
31 Camden Square, NW1,
November 22.

Eyes on South Africa

From Mr John Macdonald, QC

Sir, Your excellent leader on South Africa (November 20) rightly urges President de Klerk to give the Goldstone commission on violence greater powers even if its enquiries lead "to the doors of the cabinet and the highest echelons of the army".

Mr Justice Goldstone on November 16 called on his government and the international community to assist his investigations. The British government must give further practical help.

I was in South Africa in March with the International Commission of Jurists. Our report suggested a team of 100 international monitors with 300 back-up staff, a secure communications system and adequate transport. We envisaged that the team would monitor the performance of the law-enforcement agencies against the codes of conduct agreed in the peace accords.

Recent events underline the importance of strengthening the United Nations, EC and Commonwealth teams in South Africa.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MACDONALD,
12 New Square,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2,
November 26.

Guest detritus

From Mr C. Eliot-Cohen

Sir, Last weekend our 24-year-old son invited seven of his friends home to stay. As always, they were quite delightful and great fun.

However on Monday, when my wife started to clear up the chaos left in their wake, she discovered that they had left behind a pair of wellington boots, two pairs of trainers, a pair of walking boots, a thick jersey, a thin jersey, a hair-drier, a blazer, a rucksack and a suitcase (full of clothes).

It is now Wednesday and so far not a single item has been claimed. I cannot help feeling that this is the ultimate in the "throwaway society".

Sincerely yours,
C. ELIOT-COHEN,
Hilltop Farm,
Ramsbury,
Marlborough, Wiltshire,
November 25.

مكتبة الأمل

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THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28 1992

NEWS

Britain condemned over budget

■ Britain was last night accused of widening the gulf between the rich and poor countries of Europe after a day of talks in Brussels failed to break the deadlock over the EC's future spending.

The poorer countries roundly condemned British plans to rein in spending, which were described by Jacques Delors as betraying the spirit of Maastricht. But Britain found support from the northern states. Page 1

Vienna palace goes up in flames

■ A second great European landmark burned yesterday when the Hofburg Palace in Vienna was severely damaged. The imposing 18th century Redoutensaal and its adjoining halls were reduced to tinder. Page 1

Irish vote

Ireland has voted by two to one in favour of allowing women to travel abroad for abortions and have access to information on abortion services available elsewhere in the EC. Pages 1, 2

US welcomed

General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, the most powerful of Somalia's three warlords, in a surprise move last night welcomed the deployment of American forces to protect the distribution of aid. Page 1

Tax relief

About half of all households will find their council tax bills are lower than their poll tax bills because of strict capping on council spending. But the financial gain for households will have to be offset by poorer council services. Page 2

Birt speaks out

John Birt hit back at his tormentors, denying charges that he was a "Trappist monk" intent on stifling creativity by instituting

"pseudo-Leninist" centralised control as the BBC's new director-general. Page 3

Zagreb visas

After the outcry over Britain's refusal to admit Bosnian refugees without visas obtainable only in Vienna or Belgrade, the government said a visa office is being set up in Zagreb. Page 10

Major killed

An army major on an official visit to Northern Ireland was among four servicemen killed in a mid-air collision between two helicopters. Page 5

Class experiment

Secondary schools in Wandsworth, south London, are to experiment with a five-term year and a 50 per cent increase in teaching time. The scheme may be extended to primary schools. Page 7

Royal return

The Queen must learn the language of off-shore roll-up, gills and personal unit trusts if she is to become tax efficient. Page 8

Museum pieces hop into daylight

Over 20 new species and sub-species of grasshopper have been discovered by two British scientists after a decade's painstaking work in museums in Europe and North America. Some of the new species have lain for nearly a 100 years after being collected by colonial. Page 3



Sinking sand: Tibetan monks prepare to cast their Kalachakra Sand Mandalas — which took six weeks to prepare for the Sacred Art of Tibet exhibition at the Royal Academy — into the Thames at Lambeth Bridge to symbolise the impermanence of existence

BUSINESS

Oil agreement: Opec has managed to agree on marginal cuts in oil production after three days of meetings in Geneva. Page 19

Markets: Shares ended the week at a record high. The FT-SE 100 Index closed up 18.3 at 2760.1. The pound slipped 0.3 to close at 78.4 on its trade-weighted index, a fall of 1.22 cents against the dollar to \$1.5105 and a fall of 0.98 pence against the DM2.4186. Page 22

SPORT

Waiting game: Eric Cantona, the French international footballer, completed his £1.2m transfer from Leeds to Manchester United but he will not make his first appearance until Tuesday in a testimonial against Benfica. Page 36

Racing: Peter Scudamore's supremacy is due to an obsessive pursuit of perfection, he tells Alan Lee. Page 34

LEISURE

Making Hay: An "extraordinarily well-constructed" play, said Noel Coward about *Hay Fever*. But then, he wrote it. Benedict Nightingale is less overwhelmed, but finds much harmless fun at the newest West End production starring Maria Aitken. Weekend, page 16

Hot from Houston: Records of the week include the latest soulful extravaganza from Whitney Houston whose tone is so strong that it verges on the raucous, and compilation albums of classics from jazz masters Stan Kenton and Oscar Peterson. Weekend, page 16

Victorian perversities: If it did nothing else, George du Maurier's famously shocking novel *Trilby* and *Svensen* coined two useful new words for the English language. Now this steamy saga of domination and sexual perversity receives a powerful new stage adaptation. Weekend, page 16

SIMON JENKINS

This week the British monarchy chased after its public, caught up with it and declared itself normal. Fine. As for the royal finances, never was a topic more thoroughly demented and torn apart. *Requiescat in pace*. After the horrors of the past year, perhaps the royal family can be left alone. Page 14

BEN MACINTYRE

Of all the people rendered obsolete while America changes political gears, none is more gloomy and irascible than George Bush. "The interregnum is too long," he was heard to mutter, "too ungenerous and too long." Page 14

CONOR CRUISE O'BRIEN

Fianna Fail even in Dublin was not exactly murdered but it lost its position of dominance there and is never likely to recover it. That will do to be going on with. Page 14

The Maastricht bill

With tax revenues shrinking and domestic spending rising across recession-hit Europe, Mr Lamont's insistence on budgetary discipline in Brussels deserves the serious hearing it got this week. Page 15

Brain strain

Brain surgery, for all the skill required, is a crude process of clamping clogged arteries and staunching bleeds. But it is more effective, less expensive and less dangerous than often thought. Page 15

Time for mercy

As a noted humanitarian, President Herzog may conclude that Mordechai Vanunu's 2,200 days in solitary confinement is punishment enough for even the most serious crime — and that justice is purest when seasoned by mercy. Page 15

A studio-shot repeat of Arnold Wesker's play, *Roots*, features Jane Horrocks as Beanie who returns to Norfolk. Weekend, page 18

Mayne streaks: More than 30 years on, photographer Roger Mayne goes back to shoot life in west London. Page 4

Woman hunter: Linda Grant meets the man who is paid to track down errant wives. Page 16

Tunnel vision: Sir Alastair Morton, the chief executive of Eurotunnel, talks to Alan Franks about the gaps that can't be bridged. Page 18

Soul brothers and sisters: Kate Alderson hears the best go on, and on, and on... at a non-stop dance weekend in Southport. Page 35

Rothschild compels: With a weekend in the vineyards of Baron Philippe de Rothschild, or simply send off for a selection of vintage Bordeaux. Page 2

Spanners in the works: No sooner has Paul Heiney buried one load of treasure on his land than he uncovers another load in the autumn statement. Page 3

What to wear: Be a slave to the rhythm in pop-culture clothes, from Acid-house sweatshirts to funk and grunge. Pages 16, 11

Plug in, turn on: Bash your way to oblivion with the Temptress and her cohorts: read our shopping guide to computer games. Page 13

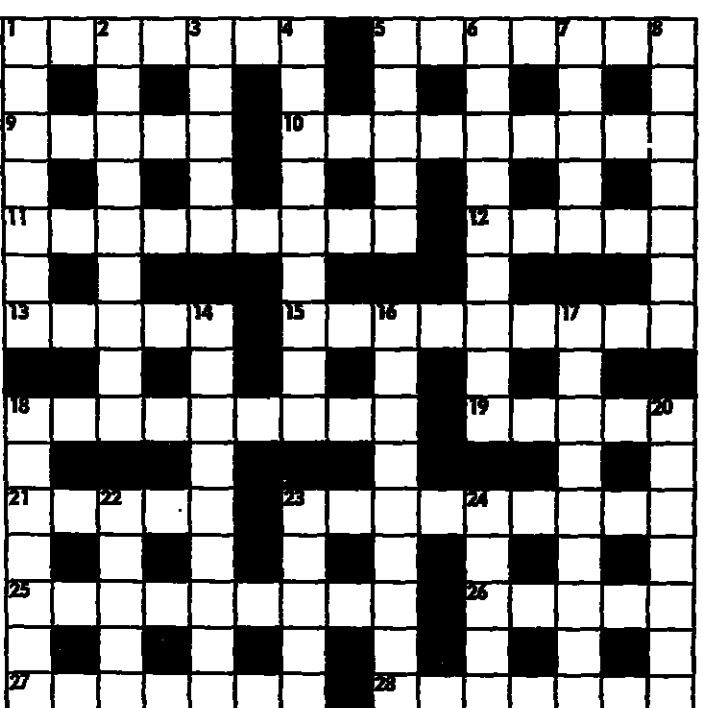
Why should we fight for a country which is far away and of which we know little? parallels between Czechoslovakia 1938 and Bosnia 1992. Page 15

Those who understand: Turkish wishes most point out that Germany has been a state under the rule of law for more than 40 years. The Turks can enjoy more freedom in Germany than at home. —Frankfurter Allgemeine

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,088

PARKER DUOFOLD A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



- ACROSS**
- Intrude reformed characters into novel (7).
 - Device for putting juice in large dish (7).
 - In the past, an artist's marker (5).
 - Say, who's the French soldier with a flower? (9).
 - He discovered a shoddy area of land (5).
 - Tee-cream without fruit for all (5).
 - Pub with leading entertainer shows lively spirit (5).
 - Article is a fashionable place (9).
 - Firm pound slides, then falls (9).
 - Distinctive character of Barnett hospital (5).
 - Disruption in Croatian port (5).
 - Like Arnold's gypsy, shall cry out about nothing (9).
 - It makes more noise if one's in a more spacious setting (9).
 - Ran into a line of stones in the road (5).
 - Sprinkler that clears the bed (7).
 - Going to great lengths to be outrageous (7).
- DOWN**
- Sort of combat the peace-keepers are equipped for (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,082

RESOURCE MODEST
BURN U A O E T
PROPERTY UNIT
O W A D C B A
SUPERCONDUCTOR
E T W L E U
STEPHEN DISRUPT
C K A N T
PRETEND REPUBLIC
A A G
MAKEUPONESMIND
P E T G T T E
PARO IMPOSITION
G U O M E D
RELATION UNDERSEA

Solution to Puzzle No 19,087

TYPECAST SPREAD
E A A W A E R
SCRAPMETAL POLL
T A I E T A E
ASSETSTRIPPING
C I A L E N R
TOTALLY STETSON
E O R T C
PASSION DEBRIEF
N M K A R E A
TWO DIMENSIONAL
I T O T
EGAD GENERALISE
U O U A D O G
CATNIP ANCESTRY

TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greatest London...	701
West/Surrey/Sussex...	702
Devon & Cornwall...	703
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset...	704
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxon...	705
Bedfordshire & Essex...	706
Northamptonshire, Cambs...	707
West Midlands & Shropshire...	708
Central Midlands...	709
East Midlands...	710
Lincoln & Humberside...	711
Dyfed & Powys...	712
Cardiff & Ceredigion...	713
NW England...	714
SW England & Dorset...	715
NE England...	716
Yorkshire & Lakes District...	717
SW Scotland...	718
W Central Scotland...	719
Edin & Fife/Lowland & Borders...	720
E Central Scotland...	721
Gloucestershire & E Highlands...	722
NW Scotland...	723
Orkney & Shetland...	724
N Ireland...	725

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
C. London (within N & S Circles)	732
M-ways/roads M4-M1	733
M-ways/roads M1-Dorset	734
M-ways/roads M2-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Angles	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

I Sutherland-Kay, Fondale Drive, Amersham, Littlehampton, West Sussex; J M Haslam, Meadow Upton, Wirral, Merseyside; J P Byrne, Barrows Green Lane, Widnes, Cheshire; C Lodge, Templers Avenue, Golders Green, London; G Brabbs, Leeds Road, Kippax, Leeds.

Showers over north and west Scotland will die out, with fog patches forming by late evening. Outbreaks of rain, heavy in places, will spread from the South West to the North and perhaps to Northern Ireland by evening, with snow on high ground in North Wales and the North. Rain will be mainly light in the South and South East, becoming drier by evening. Outlook: rain at times in most places and rather windy. Showers in the North West.

Area	Forecast	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Abertawe	18 64 s	18	64 s	C
Abertawe	18 64 s	18	64 s	C
Abertawe	18 64 s	18	64 s	C
Abertawe	18 64 s	18	64 s	C
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Major roads: figures are latest available

TODAY

Area	Forecast	Temp	Wind	Cloud
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TOMORROW

Area	Forecast	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Abertawe	18 64 s	18	64 s	C
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Abertawe	18 64 s	18	64 s	C
Abertawe	18 64 s	18	64 s	C
Abertawe	18 64 s	18	64 s	C

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. NB Rates are subject to change.

Area	Forecast	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Abertawe	18 64 s	18	64 s	C
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Abertawe	18 64 s	18	64 s	C

Tide in metres: 1m = 3.28084

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. NB Rates are subject to change.

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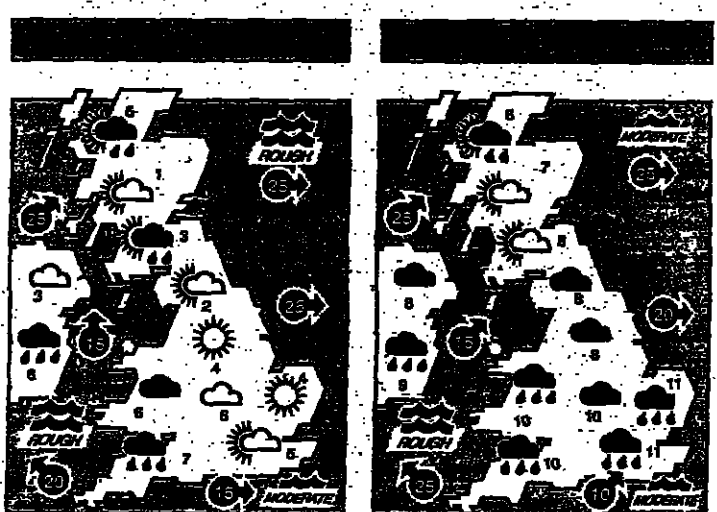
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Abertawe	18 64 s	18	64 s	C
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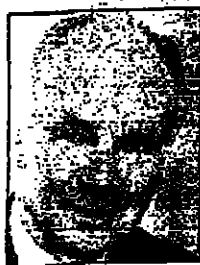
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Abertawe	18 64 s	18	64 s	C

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BUSINESS 19-30

Profile: the next
Lloyd's chairman
faces a challenge



SPORT 31-36

Atkinson's plan to
take Aston Villa
closer to leaders



PORTRAIT 34

The ambition that
keeps Scudamore
at racing's summit

WEEKEND
SPORTING
FIXTURES
PAGE 31

THE TIMES 2

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28 1992

WEEKEND MONEY

GOLD FOIL

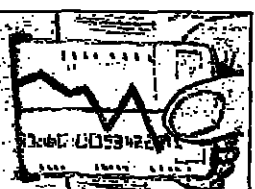


The taxman may
clamp down on
employees being paid
in gold bars or
vouchers to avoid
National Insurance
Page 23

RATE RACE

Offshore deposit
accounts and cash unit
trusts will bear building
society rates after the
latest cuts
Page 26

COSTLY CASH



Interest starts clocking
up on cash withdrawals
on credit cards as soon
as there is an unpaid
balance on the card
Letters, page 28

LOW YIELD



Policyholders should
no longer expect
£60,000 or more when
their 25-year
endowments mature
Page 24

THE POUND

US dollar
1.5105 (+0.0122)
German mark
2.4186 (-0.0098)
Exchange index
78.4 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2077.5 (+21.5)
FT-SE 100
2760.1 (+18.3)
New York Dow Jones
3282.20 (+15.94)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
17470.61 (-8.43)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Rate: 7%
3-month interbank: 7.75%
3-month eligible bills: 6.5-7.1%
US: Prime Rate: 6%
Federal Funds: 3.75%
3-month Treasury Bills: 3.25-3.24%
30-year bonds: 100%-100.75%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1.5105
DM \$1.5980
Sfr \$1.4405
FFr \$2.4275
Yen \$124.45
Index: 78.4
ECU £0.809584 SDR: 5/16
ECU1 235187 ECU/SDR
Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
A/M \$334.00 PM \$334.05
Close \$333.80-334.20
C221 10-221.60
New York:
Comex \$333.25-333.75

NORTH SEA OIL

Brant (Dec) \$19.05/bbl (\$18.88)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 139.9 October (1987=100)

North Sea boost as Opec agrees production cut

By GEORGE SIVELL

THE value of North Sea oil production rose 20 per cent in October, the first full month to show the effect of the pound's devaluation after leaving the European exchange-rate mechanism. At the same time, Opec ministers meeting in Vienna agreed to curb production at 24.58 million barrels a day, slightly below present levels. Opec said it produced 25.04 million bpd in October but western estimates have put daily output at about 25.25 million.

Oil markets were confused by the announcement. The price initially fell 25 cents a barrel, then rose 22 cents to close at \$18.97 for January Brent crude. In October, Brent crude reached \$21 a barrel but fears of excess supply and slack demand brought down the price.

The calculation of North Sea oil output is based on the Royal Bank of Scotland's monthly oil index. Production rose almost 7 per cent to more than 2 million bpd, the first

time the North Sea has exceeded that level since January. Its average daily value was almost £25 million.

However, October oil production figures traditionally show an increase, being the first full month after summer maintenance shutdowns, and the last month before North Sea weather deteriorates.

In addition, the bank says the pound fell from an average \$1.85 in September to \$1.66 in October, resulting in a 12 per cent rise in the sterling price of a barrel of oil to £12.20.

Analysts said the Opec deal did not appear to represent much of a cut but it would probably hold off a fall in prices. The announcement was complicated by Ecuador quitting Opec, the first country ever to leave. Ecuador produces only 320,000 bpd and

the new target excludes this figure. Analysts estimate the effective Opec output is about 200,000 barrels a day.

Gholamreza Azadadeh, the Iranian minister who dissented from the previous Opec accord, said he was satisfied. "I have respect for this figure," he added. Iran would cut output by 400,000 bpd to reach its quota of 3.49 million, he said.

Russia does not intend to join Opec but hopes to proceed with a Kazakh proposal for an alternative energy producers' union, grouping former Soviet republics, according to a Russian oil ministry spokesman (writes Bruce Clark in Moscow).

The spokesman dismissed reports from Vienna suggesting that Russia and Kazakhstan had expressed an interest in early full membership of Opec. He predicted that neither republic would join the 12-nation cartel in its existing form, because it would mean abiding by a strict system of production and export quotas that reflected the old members' interests.

However, he said top Russian officials, including Aleksandr Shokhin, deputy prime minister, and Viktor Chernomyrdin, oil minister, had endorsed a Kazakh suggestion that the ex-Soviet republics should establish their own "energy union" to co-ordinate their policies.

This would initially take the form of a bilateral Russian-Kazakh agreement, but it was hoped that gas-rich Turkmenistan and oil-producer Azerbaijan would also sign up.

Russian officials were drafting a charter for such a union, and in doing so, had made a careful study of Opec's organisational structure, the spokesman said.

One obvious function for a kind of ex-Soviet Opec would be to police the diversion to the world market of oil sold by Russia to its neighbours, notably Ukraine.

Eurotunnel given cash to finish job

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE banks providing the finance to build the Channel tunnel have given Eurotunnel, the operator, permission to draw down sufficient funds to finish the project, marking an end to months of negotiations. The banking syndicate providing the £6.8 billion of credit facilities to Eurotunnel has granted a waiver to allow the company to draw down funds from those facilities until May 1994, six months after the tunnel opens.

But the waiver, needed because Eurotunnel is in breach of banking agreements, depends on progress on construction and commissioning, and any further delays could imperil banking facilities. Eurotunnel was clearly delighted by the news. "It's a tremendous mandate

from the banks, telling us to go ahead and get the project finished," a spokeswoman said. The banks and the company will be discussing throughout next year strategies for meeting any funding needs after opening. Eurotunnel has accepted it could need more cash from shareholders or banks but says this will not happen before the start of business.

The decision of the banks, led by Midland, NatWest, Banque Nationale de Paris and Credit Lyonnais, appears to reflect the probable favourable outcome of long-running talks with the contractors building the tunnel. Eurotunnel has tabled a "take it or leave it" offer which is being considered by the builders, and a settlement looks near.

SIB calls for improved training

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

REPORTS of investors being sold the wrong insurance products are causing widespread public unease and enormous concern at the Securities and Investments Board, Andrew Large, its chairman, said yesterday.

The combination of commission-driven selling and lack of transparency in the products being sold placed an enormous weight on the conduct, training and professional competence of financial

advisers. "Regrettably, under this pressure, human nature has been found wanting in too many cases and this has shown up as bad practice and disadvantaged clients."

Addressing the problem of public concern about unsuitable products being sold and lack of transparency for the products would be one of the industry's big challenges.

Negligence was as serious for investors as fraud. "The regulators rightly devote con-

siderable resources to detecting and correcting such practices. But the key to really tackling them in the long term, and the reason that we are all here today, is the delivery of higher standards of training leading to greater competence." He added he wanted acceptable proposals to emerge for the formation of the personal investment authority.

Comment, page 23

Market polishes up Savoy Hotel price

By COLIN CAMPBELL

SAVOY Hotel A shares jumped 103p to 588p yesterday as market-makers speculated about Forte's ambitions for the prestige hotel group with the death of Sir Hugh Wontner, the Savoy group's president.

Forte holds 68.36 per cent of the equity, but with rights to only 42.12 per cent of the group's total votes. In the 1980s, it made a concerted and bitter effort to lift the stakes to obtain control.

With Sir Hugh as the lifelong defender of its independence, the group fought off Sir Charles Clore, Lord Samuel, founder of Land Securities, and Lord Matthews, when he was at Trafalgar House. Sir Hugh once said: "The Savoy is a passport to fame."

Savoy spent £1.5 million in litigation to thwart Forte's



burning ambition to control the group that owns the Savoy, the Berkeley, Claridge's and the Connaught. It had been suggested the battle would rage as long as Sir Hugh and Lord Forte lived.

Then in November 1989, after five years of legal battles, the Savoy and Forte declared a truce. Forte was given two main board seats and repre-

sentation on a planning committee. Forte undertook not to buy any more shares in Savoy for at least five years. That agreement runs until the end of 1994.

At stake during the years of acrimony was a block of 5.77 per cent of the Savoy's tightly held shares owned by a Swiss educational trust established by Sir Hugh. The Savoy Hotel

group has two classes of shares - A shares carry one vote for every ten held. The B shares carry ten votes for every five shares held and are rarely traded.

The trustees of the Wontner Family Settlement control 10.78 per cent of the total votes. The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust has 14.1 per cent of the votes and the Savoy Educational Trust 11.45 per cent.

The Savoy Group yesterday emphasised that "nothing has changed since the death of Sir Hugh". He was a trustee - and the trust goes on.

Forte, while admitting it did not always see eye-to-eye with Sir Hugh, said its relationship with the Savoy group had not changed and it remained "happy with its stake".

The Savoy goes on... as it has for more than 100 years.



Long fight: Lord Spens, pleased with his victory, leaves the High Court yesterday

Lord Spens formally acquitted

By ANGELA MACKAY

LORD Spens, the former merchant banker, launched a scathing attack on his prosecutors, the Serious Fraud Office, yesterday, after he won his High Court battle for a formal acquittal on charges arising out of Guinness's takeover of its rival Distillers in 1986.

Nine months after the SFO abandoned the prosecution, Lord Justice Gidwell and Mr Justice Hadden ruled that trial judge, Mr Justice Henry, had "misdirected himself" when he refused to enter a "not guilty" verdict on conspiracy and false accounting charges.

But Lord Spens, 50, was unsuccessful in his claim for £365,000 legal costs he incurred before he was awarded legal aid. His solicitors said Lord Spens was considering an appeal to the House of Lords on that issue.

After the judgment, Lord Spens said he had been "staggered by the degree of malevolence shown to all the defendants in the Guinness trials by the prosecuting and other authorities, with the exception of the police".

"The Home Office, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Bank of England, the security services, and above all the Serious Fraud Office have left no stone unturned in their effort to convict us."

Lord Spens said he intended to take his seat in the House of Lords and work "for the radical reform of the Serious Fraud Office, which I consider to be nothing more than a

cowboy outfit with a gunting mentality". An SFO spokeswoman said it was inappropriate to comment.

The trial of Roger Seelig, a former merchant banker, and Lord Spens was aborted last February after 69 days. The SFO said it would offer no further evidence because it believed the proceedings could adversely affect the mental health of Mr Seelig, who had

suffered a "catastrophic breakdown" defending himself after legal aid was refused.

On March 13, Mr Justice Henry did not order an acquittal but granted a permanent "stay" of the proceedings. Lord Justice Gidwell ruled that the peer was wrongly denied his acquittal. The judge said that the trial judge had no power to order a permanent stay.

Goodison demands talks with Lamont

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SIR Nicholas Goodison, the president of the British Bankers' Association and the chairman of TSB Group, is demanding a meeting with Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, so he can challenge the government's continued criticism of the high street banks.

Sir Nicholas has written an open letter to Mr Lamont that discloses the growing anger among banks, which feel they are being treated as scapegoats for the recession. It marks the start of an initiative to force the government to justify its criticisms or be silent.

In his letter, Sir Nicholas says he wants to head a deputation of other bank chairmen to meet the Chancellor. But he makes it clear that they are only prepared to talk to him once the full details of the Bank of England's survey of small business banking are known.

The bank chiefs also want to widen the conversation to cover the government's handling of the economy and the damage they say it has caused their institutions.

The letter is a response to a statement by Mr Lamont to the Treasury select committee two weeks ago that he wanted the Bank of England to re-examine suggestions that the banks are not passing on the full benefit of interest rate cuts to small business customers, and that he planned to meet bank chairmen to express his concerns.

This follows a similar affair in the summer of last year, when Mr Lamont met all five leading bank chairmen separately to scold them about their handling of small businesses. A Bank of England survey later showed that there was little evidence that the banks were overcharging business customers.

Sir Nicholas yesterday said: "What we basically want is a stop to these off-the-cuff criticisms from the government without the facts."

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scored 56 and Salim Malik took three wickets for 37. SCORES: Pakistan 167 (44.1 overs); West Australia 128 for 8 (45 overs); Pakistan won by one run

BUSINESS PROFILE: David Rowland

The charmer who aims to restore Lloyd's image

Carol Leonard speaks to the head of Sedgwick who has climbed one rung higher than his father

The election on Wednesday settled it. David Rowland, chairman of Sedgwick, the largest insurance broker in Britain, is to be the next chairman of Lloyd's, the biggest insurance market in the world.

Rowland, 59, knew that it was almost a foregone conclusion, but there is always the possibility that an outside horse might steal the race. With that uncertainty removed, and with the question of his succession at Sedgwick fully resolved, Rowland, due to begin his new job in January, is anxious to let it be known that he is no longer reluctant to be Lloyd's chairman.

"I do not want anyone to think that I'm coming in on a grudging basis," he says. "Until the decision was taken that I should do the job I did resist it, but once it became apparent that I was the only person acceptable, it did not take long before I thought that I did want to do it." His initial reluctance is perhaps understandable. He has a secure and influential job at Sedgwick, a salary of £350,000 a year, and the Lloyd's job, traditionally, is unpaid. A charming and apparently effortless negotiator, who invariably succeeds in getting his own way, Rowland has persuaded Lloyd's to set a precedent by paying him a comparable salary. He points out that he was put under tremendous pressure from all sorts of City figures, including the Governor of the Bank of England, to allow his name to go forward. "I will have a tremendous amount of public exposure, and there is a hell of a lot of downside."

As one of the authors of the task force report into Lloyd's, Rowland is well acquainted with the myriad problems it faces. He understands the full extent of the potential downside, to both himself and the City, if, under his chairmanship, Lloyd's fails to restore its battered image and to secure future lines of asset backing from one-bitten names. He refuses to give odds on the likelihood of success. "I am quite sure that Lloyd's will continue into the future, but in what form I

do not know. I will do everything I can to ensure that the qualities of the past remain. It supplies a type of insurance and a willingness to take risk that cannot be found anywhere else in the world. If there is a demand for its product, I cannot believe that the difficulties cannot be overcome."

Nor will he give any indication of how long he expects his mission to take, or whether he is likely to extend his initial three-year term of office. "I believe in marathon races, not sprints. There are so many different issues, all of which have different time horizons. The whole mess caused by the suffering to existing names and potential litigation, the attraction of adequate capital assets into the market. It depends on the perception of the market — is it managed properly and can it offer superior returns?" Rowland does not refer to the suffering of the names lightly. He has been a name since 1973 and he, too, has lost money — £75,000 last year, and with a number of open years still to be brought to account. "I am very concerned about some of my open years," he says. "In no sense will that affect the way I run

'I always had an awful tendency to become head boy at everything ... I don't understand why'

Lloyd's, but I do know what it feels like. Some people will say I have a bloody great salary and it is true, I can afford to deal with my losses." In that, he is luckier than his paternal grandfather, who lost a fortune when his engineering empire collapsed in the stock market crash of 1929 and the depression of the thirties. Tales of his grandfather's plight — and its consequences — were probably one of the main influences on Rowland during his formative years. The downfall of the business meant that Rowland's own father had to abandon plans to become a barrister. He entered insurance instead. A determined man, he climbed to the top of a large insurance broking firm. He also defiantly went ahead with plans to marry his fiancée, Rowland's mother. They got engaged in very glamorous circumstances and then suddenly there was nothing. They were very diffi-



Man at the top: David Rowland has suffered losses along with other names — £75,000 last year — and still has a number of open years to be brought to account

cult times. His parents divorced when Rowland, an only child, was in his early twenties.

"I always had an awful tendency to become head boy at everything, at prep school and at St Paul's. I don't understand why, but people from outside would say that I wanted to show my father how well I was doing." As a schoolboy he was, he says, "averagely bright" in what was an exceptionally academic school. "I was always in the top form of my year, but I left with a considerable feeling of academic inferiority. You either get caught up in the slip stream or you get left behind. I got left behind. At the time, I often felt that the only quality I had was being able to get groups of people to work together."

Rowland's career has been characterised by extraordinary drive and ambition. It is almost as if he has endeavoured to mirror his father's life, but with the ending — hopefully — happier and even more successful. He admits that sometimes those powerful forces get the better of him. He was not universally popular during his pre-Sedgwick days at Stewart Wighson, and

then Willis Faber. To outsiders he might be renowned for his smooth-talking, easy charm, but to some of his ex-colleagues he is recalled as being intolerant, manipulative and ill-tempered. "I have gone through phases," Rowland says. "The problem if you stay in one company for a long time, like I did, is that you become typecast. I went through periods of perhaps five years when I was intolerant, wound up. Then there were other periods when I was not so chewed up and I was more generous to people. Of course you retain the same characteristics, but you can be jolted in one direction or the other by different people. I'm now a lot less nipping than I used to be. I'm inaccurate myself and it's because I have great failings in that area that I try so hard to compensate."

The accusations of ill-temperament stem from his caustic tongue. Highly articulate and fast talking, his words become even more clipped when he is irritated and, when angered, the set of his chin alters and the verbal assault begins. "I am capable of being verbally very destructive. I sometimes under-

stand the consequences of some of the things I say. I am constantly amazed by the effect I can have when I think I am being quite gentle with someone."

Rowland, like his father, abandoned his original career plan — to become a doctor. "If I had my time again I would read English or history." He graduated from Cambridge with a third class degree in natural sciences and was, he says, hopeless at cutting up bodies. He is similarly hopeless when it comes to do-it-yourself. "I'm really seriously one of life's bachelors."

Again, like his father, he has been divorced. He and his first wife Giulia, a pianist and the mother of his two children, Belinda, 32, and Mark, 30, split up after 34 years of marriage. A year ago, and within months of his divorce becoming absolute, he married New Zealand-born Diana Matthews, an Islington estate agent, a partner in Holden Matthews.

The resolution of Rowland's private life, his business success, and the fact that he, like his father, ended up running a large Lloyd's broker, seem to have largely satis-

fied his quest. It is as if everything suddenly clicked into place. His imminent assault on Lloyd's is an additional, unanticipated challenge, taking him one step further than his father ventured. He vividly recalls his father returning from the war, in North Africa and Aden, after five-and-a-half years. "I was 12 years old and suddenly this great hero came back from the war. I was overjoyed to have a daddy again. But after that it wasn't easy."

He must have been a hero figure, nevertheless, and although Rowland is proud of his own achievements he acknowledges that is the one thing he is never likely to be. He tries too hard, is that little bit too dapper — "Yes he hates the word dapper, but it describes him to a T," says his secretary. "I can think of lots of wonderful leaders, charismatic heroes, but I have never felt remotely like that myself." Rowland says. He wants you to tell him that he is. "Instead I have always had thoughts about what I could achieve tomorrow if only I tried a little bit harder."

Rowland is not a workaholic. He works hard and is a perfectionist.

"If it is not perfect it is not good enough," adds his secretary. "His home life, his dress and his car, they all have to be immaculate."

Rowland says he can sometimes be pompous — "I do sometimes go banging on a bit and then I need someone to burst my balloon" — but he agrees that he has also become nicer as he has matured.

"I am nicer, kinder, and more generous now, particularly with my own family. I have always felt warm and emotional about people, but unless you feel secure in yourself you cannot show it because if you display emotion you expose yourself. I guess if other people were to look back over the years they would think I had been too bloody perfect, being head boy all the time, but they couldn't quite hate me because I always got them to work alongside me. As far as I am concerned, however, there are lots of untidy parts. I can see my feet of clay and yes, I do have lots of regrets, personal ones. I have caused a lot of hurt and I do not like that. I would like to be kinder, nicer, gentler and more understanding."

Busy Tomkins perks up

TOMKINS has a busy few days ahead of it. On Monday, the group's one-for-two rights issue at 200p, which will raise £653 million, closes. The following Monday is the closing date of its cash/share takeover offer to shareholders in Rank Hovis McDougall.

Initially, there were market doubts about the rights issue, and Tomkins' share price eased uncomfortably close to 200p. By yesterday, the shares were looking perkier at 230p, up 8p, suggesting the fully underwritten rights will prove successful.

As for RHM, this should prove to be virtually plain sailing. Tomkins, which is offering 260p (current share price 259p), holds 22 per cent of its bid target and has an RHM board recommendation. So far, there is no suggestion of a late counter-bidder.

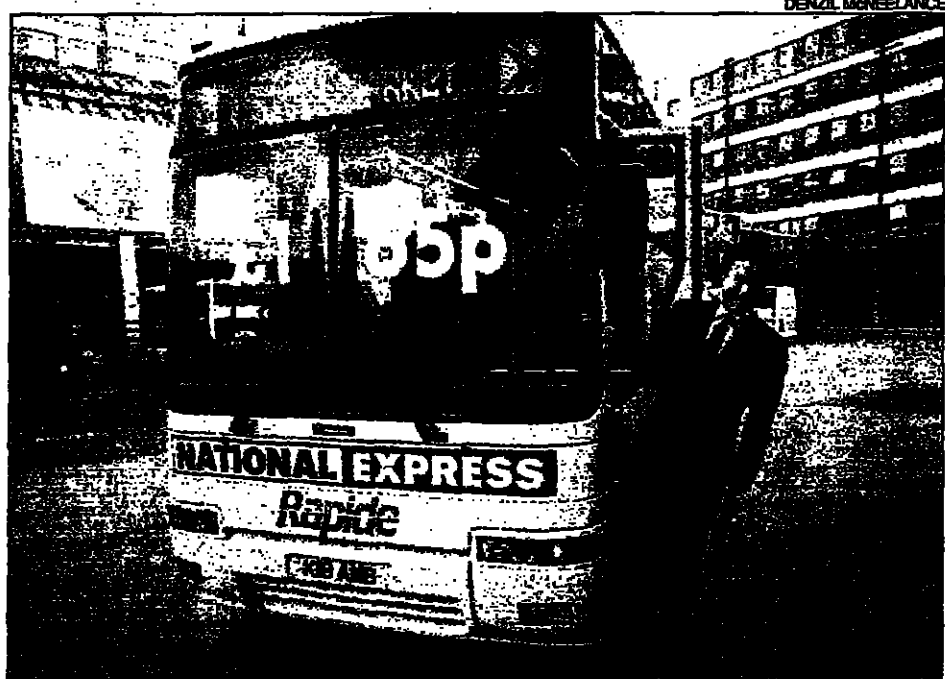
How much Tomkins shells out in cash to assent RHM shareholders depends on their election of either shares, cash, or a mixture. If all RHM shareholders elect for cash, Tomkins, currently £150 million cash positive, will become roughly £200 million cash negative, or 30 per cent geared. A Tomkins share price above 227p gives the share election added attraction.

Tomkins' determination that it will never make an acquisition that is earnings dilutive — not even in its first year — and that its role is all about management, rather than products, underlines market views that 1993 pretax profits will rise to between £141 million and £144 million (£132.1 million), to lift net earnings about 5.5 per cent. The 1993 profits estimate excludes any contribution from RHM.

Tomkins' shares, on 15.7 times prospective earnings, are acknowledging prospects. Shareholders should support the rights.

National Express

PRICE earnings multiples are one of those strange beasts that make the City go round but seldom exercise in any



Driving towards share offer: Adam Mills, deputy chief executive of National Express

great detail the attentions of private shareholders, such as the 35,000 who have already applied for a prospectus in National Express.

Potential investors might do well to look a little more closely at the numbers, however. National Express is floating on a multiple of ten times' forecast earnings of 16.5p for the 1992 financial year, the prospectus says.

This is a fair multiple for a business that is at the less glamorous end of the transport sector and facing competition from special deals from British Rail. Economic upturn may help earnings, but it may also tempt existing National Express contractors to strike out on their own.

The average is about 11 in transport, something of a rag-bag sector containing a number of hardly comparable businesses. But — and it is a big but — a complicated wrangle with the Stock Exchange has required the company to state 1992 earnings in an unorthodox way. Had the normal conventions for companies coming to the market, been followed, the multiple would have risen to 12, which is too rich by far.

The number of private in-

vestors interested means a full quarter of the £45.9 million worth of shares on offer should go to the public, and there could be scaling back or even a ballot, suggesting a healthy premium in the after-market. Potential stages should bear in mind, however, that institutions that have lost out will not be chasing the shares at this price. Those shareholders who stay in the slow lane for some time.

Medeva

MEDEVA promises it will not make a habit of announcing quarterly figures. But why should it complain when American securities rules force it to announce a 234 per cent rise in nine-month profits to £26.1 million? Investors who chased the shares to feverish heights a year ago are being rewarded for their optimism.

Freed from the losses in its generic drug distribution business, sold last month, Medeva is demonstrating the benefits of its hectic acquisition spree. A 146 per cent rise in earnings per share suggests that either Medeva has bought cheap or the group is,

indeed, generating real organic growth.

In the short term though, the progress of the main new products is likely to dictate the share price. Hepa-gene-3, the Hepatitis B vaccine, is awaiting registration. If cleared for use, it is expected to become the most advanced product in a market that could have annual sales of \$1 billion a year by the middle of the decade.

The other key area in Medeva's expansion, and its riskiest gamble to date, was the \$55 million acquisition of Armstrong in America last month. Armstrong is awaiting approval from the Food and Drug Administration for its anti-asthma drugs. If approved, the company will compete against Ventolin, Glaxo's respiratory drug, in a market worth \$400 million a year. If not, the acquisition of Armstrong and Adams, the respiratory drug distributor, will look very expensive.

Even without these, Medeva is capable of producing £50 million profit next year. While the group is still highly rated, the p/e ratio of 14 is not exorbitant, given the potential upside, and the shares at 223p should not be sold.

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18.00	18.00
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SAT - SUN	
07.50	07.55
12.00	12.05
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SAIFED 36 and Salim Malik took three wickets for 37. SCORES: Pakistan 167 (44.1 overs), West Australian Invitational 121 (64.5 overs), Pakistan won by one run.

Late surge leads to record high

THE equity market extended this week's record-breaking run with share prices closing at another all-time high as the two-week trading account drew to a close.

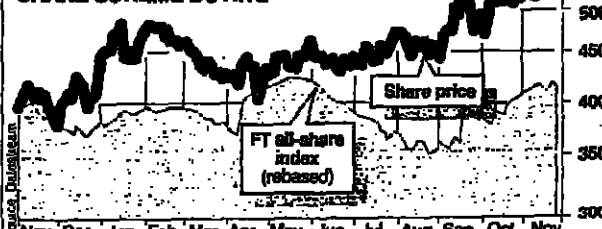
The FT-SE 100 index, having marked time for much of the session, had a late surge, closing near its best of the day with a rise of 18.3 to 2,760.1, for a two-day lead of 50.5 points. It brings the gain on the two-week account to 62.7.

But dealers described traditional conditions as thin, with turnover of 665 million shares boosted by end of account profit-taking. There was little evidence of buying for the new

account starting on Monday. The late rally appears to have been fuelled by a squeeze in the financial futures market, combined with an opening 26-point rise in the Dow Jones industrial average on Wall Street following the Thanksgiving holiday.

The first cracks began to appear among the utilities, which have led the rest of the market higher in recent weeks. Some fund managers appear to believe that the water and electricity companies may have started to run out of steam. Others remain concerned about the possibility of further regulatory problems.

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM: PRICE BOOSTED BY EMPLOYEE SHARE SCHEME BUYING



Among the water companies, Anglian fell 12p to 473p. Northumbrian 6p to 542p. North West 7p to 477p. Severn Trent 10p to 452p. Southern 10p to 453p. South

West 10p to 488p. Thames 7p to 482p. Welsh 14p to 512p. Wessex 9p to 564p and Yorkshire 14p to 516p.

Among the electricity distributors, East Midlands lost 4p to 408p. London 4p to 427p. Marne 7p to 485p. Midlands 6p to 451p. Northern 10p to 450p. North West 7p to 450p. Southern 4p to 420p. South Wales 10p to 497p. South West 7p to 445p and Yorkshire 3p to 477p.

Allied-Lions fell 1p to 642p after being given government approval to merge its brewing and wholesaling operations with those of Carlsberg, the Danish brewer, after a report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in July. The venture is expected to give the new company about 19 per cent of the beer market.

SmithKline Beecham, a hardened another 12p to 554p as the trustees of the company's share ownership scheme picked up 14 million shares in the marketplace at 560p a share.

Earlier this week, the SB share price was boosted by the news that it had received

permission to market Kytrol, its anti-vomiting drug, for use with cancer therapy, in Europe. Glaxo, which already markets a version of the drug, has vowed to fight the decision. Glaxo fell 4p to 792p.

Revived bid hopes sent shares of the Savoy Hotel soaring 103p to 588p after the death of Sir Hugh Wontner, the president. Forte, the rival hotelier, owns 69 per cent of the Savoy ordinary shares but only 42.5 per cent of the all-important voting shares after an unsuccessful takeover attempt.

ICI remained out of favour, with the institutions closing unchanged at 981p. The City is undecided about the company's proposal to demerger its businesses into two separate divisions.

Stock shortages and the dollar's recent strength lifted Resters 37p to a new peak of £13.31. Investors who have been arbitraging between the ordinary shares and the con-

vertible bond are now scrambling to cover short positions and forcing the price higher.

Arjo Wiggins Appleton eased 3p to 152p on talk of a profits downgrade by BZW, the stockbroker, which is worried about falling European demand.

GKN bounced back with a rise of 10p to 402p as fund managers began to have second thoughts about this week's trip by analysts to Manchester and the group's operations in France.

Wassall, the industrial conglomerate bidding for Evede, ended the day 1p lower at 180p after going ex-rights. The group is raising £103 million by way of a three-for-five rights at 150p.

Granada, the television rental and leisure group, jumped 8p to 296p ahead of interim figures next week. These are expected to show pre-tax profits recovering from £57 million to £115 million.

MICHAEL CLARK

Dow continues rally to rise 16

New York — Blue chips recorded modest gains on follow-through buying from this week's rally.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 15.94 points higher at 3,282.2, with advancing issues leading declining shares by about five to three.

□ Tokyo — Shares closed mixed to end a six-day rally. Profit-taking and pre-weekend position closing squeezed prices, but buying spurred by the absence of revelations from testimony on political scandals, and growing confidence that no drastic drops were imminent, kept the tone firm.

The Nikkei average was down 8.43 points, or 0.05 per cent, to 17,470.61, with an estimated 250 million shares traded. The broader first section Topix index was up 4.48 points, or 0.34 per cent, to 1,307.54.

□ Frankfurt — German share

prices were mixed at the end of a non-committal session, with investors showing little willingness to take up any new positions in view of the current array of negative fundamentals, share traders said. The 30-share Dax index ended 0.23 points lower at 1,522.95.

□ Singapore — Share prices closed higher on institutional buying but late profit-taking erased some early gains, dealers said. The Straits Times industrial index closed at 1,447.96, up 10.97 points from Thursday but off the day's high of 1,455.85.

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SIB sees salvation in training

Could it be that the Securities and Investments Board is preparing to make an about turn on the subject of commission disclosure? Might it be ready to accept any recommendations that come from the Office of Fair Trading in the next few weeks that all investors should be told at the time they buy a policy, unit trust or pork belly future just what the salesman will get out of it?

Yesterday Andrew Large, who became SIB chairman in June, told a conference of financial advisers there was "enormous concern" about reported mis-selling of life assurance. Addressing the problems of the wrong products being sold and the lack of clear information for investors when they sign an application form, will remain the main challenges for the investment industry over the coming months, he said.

The disclosure of commission in cash terms would be one way of removing the temptation for salesmen to sell products that give them the highest commission but which may

be unsuitable for the investors. Once it became obvious that selling the 25-year policy instead of the unit trust or tax-exempt special savings account earned the seller a lot more, only the most brass-necked salesman would be able to continue stuffing the high commission earners into almost every portfolio.

There are some investors who benefit from investing in bonds rather than unit trusts. There are also perfectly reasonable investment strategies that involve planned encashments of policies before maturity but not as many as the sales figures for bonds and the lapse figures for policies indicate.

It will be up to professional salesmen to make a proper case for such investments to the specific investors who will benefit. There might also be a big re-design of insurance products once it became clear how little was being invested in



COMMENT
LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

the early years in many investment products. There are companies already looking at ways of reducing the front-end costs on policies so that they can improve the investment performance. This would be a profound benefit from the Financial Services Act everyone would cheer.

Some insurance companies already recognise that high lapse rates could prove more costly to them if they do not do something to reduce them. Regulators are keen that the person sold an unsuitable policy by a salesman should not lose out. If best advice has not been given then the

customer should be put back in the position they would have been in had they never met the salesman.

Of course, that relies on the customer realising something is wrong or the company being caught out with inadequate information on their records or details that do not tally with the recommendations made. This means salesmen are willing to risk not being caught. After all, commission up-front is very attractive in these lean times. When a policy lapses, an insurance company may pursue the salesman for all or part of the commission, but

many find this difficult. What would really add to the pain would be if the regulators decided that those with the highest lapse rates should be ordered to improve their surrender values so the company suffered as much loss as the investor.

Training is the answer, says Mr Large, and many in the industry agree that since they improved their training the quality of their business has improved. It would be in the industry's interests if more salesmen were real professional advisers, with educational achievements to persuade investors of their excellence. Who knows — more investors might be willing to pay fees. Until standards of competence rise, Mr Large says that it will continue to adopt a prescriptive approach. He accepts that negligence is more of a problem than fraud. In many cases the results of

carelessness or ill-informed salesmen are worse than the broker that runs off with clients' money. When a fraudster does a bunk, everyone knows and the investors' compensation scheme sets about finding the known investors and encouraging them to make a claim. Then those with less than £30,000 at stake get all their money back and those with £50,000 or more get £48,000 back.

The victims of the inadequate salesmen may not know it until they receive their final payout and find that capital gains tax was deducted when they as individuals have no liability to the tax or find something else is wrong years later. By then it is usually too late to do anything.

The Securities and Investments Board must be supported in its attempts to raise standards throughout the industry. Too often salesmen have blind faith in a product because it is from a large company with a reputable name. Recent publicity has shown that the biggest names can get it wrong as well when it comes to selling investments.

Long-running battle ends in victory for school teachers

Law lords rule against Revenue claim for tax on company perks



A famous victory: John Hart, back row, second left, and his colleagues on the steps of Malvern College

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

MILLIONS of taxpayers will not have to pay extra income tax this year because of a House of Lords ruling this week. The law lords found in favour of a group of school teachers after a protracted battle dating back almost ten years.

If the Inland Revenue had won, extra tax bills would have been sent to employees who receive perks from their job, such as cheap air tickets, free rail travel or even discounted clothes and books. However, the victory may be short-lived as tax experts predict that the law may be changed next year so that employees are taxed in the way that the Revenue

expected them to be. The case of *Pepper v Hart* hinged on whether school teachers at Malvern College, Worcester-shire, should pay tax on the full cost of providing cheap places for their sons at the public school or on the additional cost of providing the specific places for the boys.

The teachers were paying 20 per cent of the usual fees and this was said to cover the extra costs of food, laundry and books. The Inland Revenue said that instead of this marginal cost being taken into account for tax purposes, the average cost of teaching every pupil should be used for the tax bill.

The Revenue won at the High Court in 1989, and the Court of Appeal in November 1990, but seven law lords unanimously found for the taxpayers on Thursday.

If the case had been won by the Revenue, rail and airline employees plus anyone receiving discounts or using executive dining rooms, or company sports facilities could have received an extra tax bill for the year that started on April 6. In preparation for the result, the Revenue had given an undertaking to accountants that they would not seek to claim tax on benefits enjoyed before then.

While the sons of the school teachers concerned have now all left the college, those teachers whose children are still pupils will be relieved to find that they will not have to pay

tax on the full £11,000 of fees that are currently charged, or the average cost of providing a place at the school.

Taken to the extreme, the Revenue, under its reading of the law, would have charged an airline employee receiving concessionary fares an exorbitant amount. If there were only a few people using the flight then, technically, the cost of getting the aircraft to the destination would be divided between the number of passengers and the tax charged on the individual portion. Many employers have held back from giving discounts and benefits as part

a profit. Ms Ferrar said that all discussions with the Revenue before the ruling had been on the basis that it would win the case. She added: "There have been suggestions that if they did not win, they might enact the legislation as they believed it to be in the 1993 Budget."

This could be in March or November as the Autumn Statement will contain tax measures and it may take that long to consult on the proposal. It is likely that any proposed legislation would put an upper limit on the cost of an item or service as the cost to the public. If legislation is

'If the Revenue had won, it would have had very wide-ranging consequences'

of their salary packages because this case was expected to end them.

Leslie Ferrar, a partner at KPMG Peat Marwick, the accountants, said: "If the Revenue had won, it would have had very wide-ranging consequences. People could have been taxed on sporting facilities, executive dining rooms, subsidised train fares, cheap journeys on cross-channel ferries and knockdown remaindered goods. Taken to the extreme, if a company was making a loss on providing goods or services, employees would pay more tax than where a company was making

proposed. Ms Ferrar said it could include lavish corporate hospitality. "The Revenue has never liked over-the-top corporate entertainment at grand events such as Wimbledon."

Maureen Parry-Wingfield, tax technical partner of Touche Ross, said: "Let us hope that the government now leaves well alone and resists any temptation to change the law."

He added: "It is not even clear that, in the end, much more tax would have been due than is now collected on benefits in the vast majority of ordinary cases, merely a lot of extra work."

Sean O'Hare, senior manager at Price Waterhouse, the accountants, said: "A lot of caution is required. The gold schemes were used a lot at the end of the last financial year. It was assumed they would be stopped, but they have not been yet."

Mrs Edwards reports a large increase in business for vouchers. Her business is up 880 per cent this quarter on the previous quarter and she is taking on extra staff. She said that many firms were looking at profit-related pay as a way of paying more cash to employees who then pay less tax. It was possible for a company to save 3 per cent on its tax bill and for employees to end up 3 per cent better off, he said.

The Inland Revenue was paying close attention to such schemes to ensure that they were genuine and not a redistribution of existing earnings.



Ferrar: consequences

Golden route round NI bills

EMPLOYERS have been turning to methods other than cash for paying staff to cut their tax bills. One firm paid its staff bonuses totalling £600,000 and saved itself £98,000 (Lindsay Cook writes).

Gill Edwards, who runs the Motivation Marketing Board, says that firms are using vouchers to pay overtime and bonuses when they have pay freezes. It cuts the cost for the employer by the 10.4 per cent it would pay in National Insurance contributions and can save the staff 9 per cent because they do not have to pay National Insurance contributions on vouchers.

"More and more companies are looking at saving money on the payroll, while giving the employees more."

Such schemes may be short-lived though, the government is believed to be uncomfortable about the use of voucher schemes to pay bonuses and schemes which pay bonuses in gold bills to avoid which pay bonuses in gold bills.

Leslie Ferrar, partner at KPMG Peat Marwick, said: "Their exemption from National Insurance could be stopped at very short notice. All it would take would be a statutory instrument."

The gold schemes were devised after Tony Newton, social security minister, announced on November 6 that NI contributions would be levied on earnings paid in shares or unit trusts. Until then many firms had paid bonuses in cash unit trusts which could be redeemed the following day without loss.

The move was to stop £25 million a year being lost in NI contribution on about £250 million being paid in non-cash bonuses. Much of this has been routed to gold and voucher schemes.

If the government were to levy National Insurance contributions on vouchers it would have to exempt childcare vouchers which are paid to employees by firms that do not have crèche facilities. The vouchers are already taxed as a benefit in kind, whereas workplace nurseries are not. While the employees paid by these schemes usually earn too much to pay NI on their bonuses, their employers save their NI contributions. To avoid tax, the bonuses have to be paid in vouchers or expressed in gold rather than sterling. To make the gold schemes worthwhile, the employer needs to have £250,000 to £500,000 to pay over. The bullion is held

offshore so that no value added tax has to be paid on it. It is held typically in Hong Kong or America and some schemes even make sure that the employee is at no risk to currency or gold price fluctuations. Others limit the risk of moves to one day before the gold is sold and cash transferred to a UK bank account for the employee.

Sean O'Hare, senior manager at Price Waterhouse, the accountants, said: "A lot of caution is required. The gold schemes were used a lot at the end of the last financial year. It was assumed they would be stopped, but they have not been yet."

Mrs Edwards reports a large increase in business for vouchers. Her business is up 880 per cent this quarter on the previous quarter and she is taking on extra staff. She said that many firms were looking at profit-related pay as a way of paying more cash to employees who then pay less tax. It was possible for a company to save 3 per cent on its tax bill and for employees to end up 3 per cent better off, he said.

The Inland Revenue was paying close attention to such schemes to ensure that they were genuine and not a redistribution of existing earnings.

Determined Hart outruns taxman

JOHN Hart can now be certain his name will go down in tax and legal history as one half of the long-running *Pepper v Hart* case (Sara McConnell writes).

Mr Hart and his nine colleagues at Malvern College finally triumphed this week in a nine-year battle with the Inland Revenue over how they should be taxed on the value of the perk they received by having their children educated at the college for a reduced fee.

Mr Hart, senior classics master at the college, said: "My first reaction to the verdict was relief that this country is governed by parliament and not by middle ranking civil servants."

Millions of other employees who get reduced travel costs, food or other perks as part of their job also breathed a sigh of relief that they would not face the higher tax bills that they would have received if the Revenue had won.

The House of Lords agreed with the masters that they should only be taxed on the additional cost of educating their children. The Inland Revenue had successfully argued in earlier rulings that their tax should be based on a proportion of the school's total educational costs, including overheads like heat-

ing bills and teachers' salaries. This would have meant higher tax bills.

Mr Hart said he would have had a relatively small tax bill of an extra £1,000 if the appeal had gone against the masters, because his two sons had only four more terms to go when the battle began. Some of his colleagues would have been harder hit because their children had just started at the school and had five years' fees ahead of them.

Thirteen masters and mistresses have 17 children between them in the school. Full day-pupil fees are £2,665 a term. The masters' case was based on the fact that educating their sons was not costing the school any extra money because heating, lighting, staff costs and other bills would have been the same whether they were there or not. Any additional costs were covered by the 20 per cent of the fee they were paying.

The same argument applies in the case of companies like British Airways, which offers staff flights at 10 per cent of their normal cost. The cost to

the company of running the flight, in fuel costs and landing fees is the same regardless of whether staff are travelling at reduced cost. The only extra cost would be food, which is marginal and usually discounted. If the appeal had gone against the taxpayer, airlines would have had to work out an average of their total cost for each staff member getting the perk.

British Rail said this week that it was "relieved that it no longer had to explore the implications for our company". Its employees get a privilege ticket, entitling them to a 75 per cent discount off the full fare on all rail journeys and between 14 and 20 named days of free travel a year. They get free season ticket travel to work within eight miles of their home station and 40 miles of Charing Cross if they live in London. Some of these benefits are already taxable.

Marks & Spencer's staff get a 20 per cent discount off its goods but are exempt from tax if they pay wholesale prices.

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Endowment bonus rates under siege

By Sara McConnell

PAYOUTS on 25-year endowment policies will have to come down from about £63,000 to about £50,000 in the next five years if present investment trends continue, Mercer Fraser, a leading firm of consulting actuaries said this week.

The payout on ten-year policies should shrink from about £7,200 to £5,700 over the same period, it said.

Life offices are widely expected to announce cuts of about 10 per cent in payouts on shorter-term policies as

well as a bonus on the guaranteed sum assured. In some cases, terminal bonuses make up almost half the final payout and depend heavily on investment performance in the year the policy matures.

Peter Turvey, principal at Mercer Fraser, said people could no longer realistically expect payouts of £63,000 after investing the average £30 a month for 25 years. He said: "People have got used to numbers like £60,000. Life offices need to manage a transition. We are going to

'People can no longer expect £63,000 by investing £30 a month for 25 years'

bring in 1992 as the bonus declaration season gets under way in the next few months. This will be the third year that bonuses on such policies have been cut and it looks likely to be part of a continuing trend. More and deeper cuts in 25-year policies are also on the cards as offices find that they are unable to sustain high bonus rates.

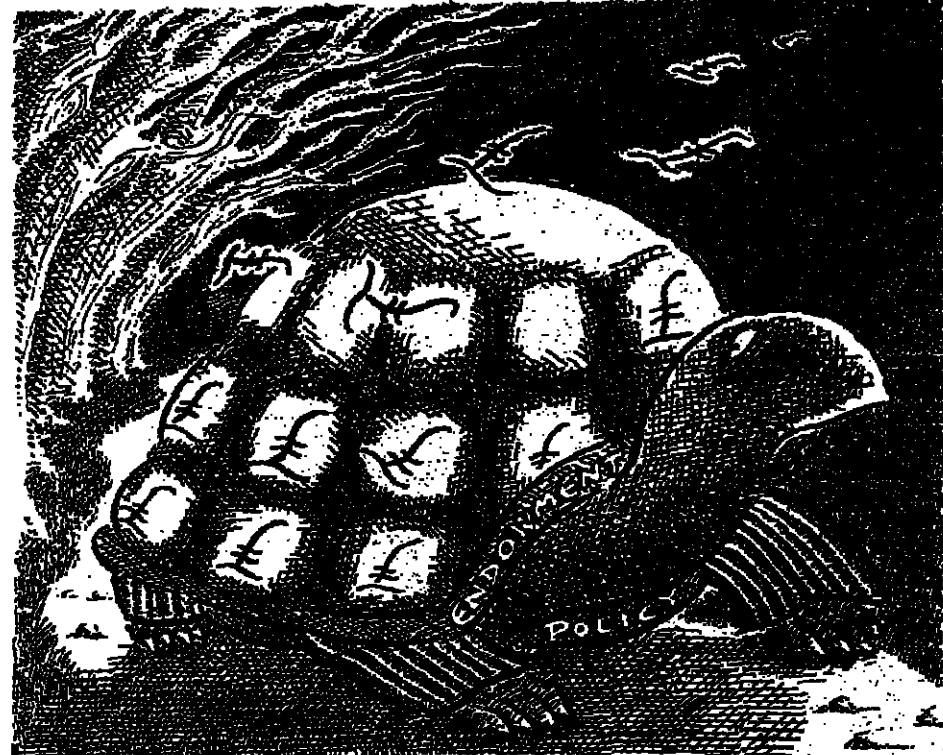
In the past few years, some have been reluctant to cut rates on longer-term policies but have felt the strain, particularly on terminal bonuses that are added in the year the policy matures, while annual bonuses cannot be taken away.

Traditional with-profits policies earn bonuses on bonuses

have to come down to the £50,000-ish level in five years' time."

Returns on life offices' equity and fixed-interest securities have shrunk from about 17.5 per cent a year in the late 1980s to about 10 per cent now, as interest rates and inflation fall. Mr Turvey said: "We came from a terrible inflationary period in the late 1980s. A couple of years ago the penny started dropping, although interest rates were still higher than now. Now we have had five years of not very good returns and they weren't five flukey years."

There should be a "steady progression" of cuts of about £2,000 a year on 25-year policy payouts, Mr Turvey



said. The annual cut on ten-year policies should be about £500. This year's bonus declaration round has not yet started, but Scottish Equitable announced a surprise interim bonus cut this week, giving a taste of what is to come. Payouts on ten-year policies have been cut by 9.1 per cent and 25-year policies have been cut 3.6 per cent.

Bill Stewart, group marketing manager at Scottish Equitable, said another cut in rates next year could not be ruled

out. He said: "Our investment returns are not good. We didn't cut last year; there was just a bit of readjustment. No one is now able to earn enough in investment returns to cover high bonus payouts."

Norwich Union, which last year broke with its tradition of being the first to announce bonus rates then announced cuts of up to 12 per cent, believes a 10 per cent cut on ten-year policies is likely. It also said further cuts on 25-year policies were possible.

Philip Scott, general manager at Norwich Union, said the pace had been set at the Institute of Actuaries' annual convention in Harrogate in September, when there was general agreement among actuaries that there would have to be further cuts in bonus rates.

"In the 1980s, returns were much higher than anything seen in the previous decade. In 1990-1, the return on all insurance company assets was 2 per cent a year on average,

compared with 20 per cent in the early 1980s." He said that someone with a policy maturing this year would have seven years of high returns and three years of lower returns, but good years still outweighed bad.

If lower returns continue, a policyholder who took out a plan three years ago will not have the advantage of any years of high returns. Dealers in second-hand endowment policies are also preparing for bonus rate cuts over the coming months.

Beale Dobie has reduced its prices to buyers of endowments, assuming a 10 per cent reduction in reversionary bonus rates, a 10 per cent reduction in terminal bonus on policies with an original term of 18 years or less, and a 5 per cent reduction in terminal bonus rates for policies issued on a term of 19 years or more.

Policy Portfolio, another market-maker in second-hand policies, said sellers of endowment policies could find they get a lower rate if their policy is with an office that has cut its bonuses more heavily than those of its competitors.

Now it is possible to get between 15 per cent to 20 per cent more than the surrender value from the life office. Sammy Alexander, a director at Policy Portfolio, said that after the bonus rate round was finished, if some maturity values fell, the price of the policy in the second-hand market would probably fall by the same amount.

Co-op Bank offers
no-fee Visa card

THE Co-operative Bank has introduced another Visa credit card carrying the guarantee that holders will never have to pay an annual fee (Sara McConnell writes). The card, called the Robert Owen card after the pioneer of the Co-operative movement, follows the launch of the bank's "free for life" Gold card 15 months ago. Applicants will have to be aged more than 25, own their own home and earn at least £15,000 a year. They must also already hold a credit card issued by any British bank.

However, Terry Thomas, Co-op's managing director, said these requirements would not be enough in themselves. The bank only wants people who use their cards regularly and heavily, so that it can recoup its costs.

It also wants to encourage people not to pay off their card balances in full every month by offering them an extra ten days in which to pay their minimum balance. Those who want to pay in full have 15 days only in which to do this, shorter than the average 25 days allowed by most card issuers.

As a further incentive, customers spending more than £300 a month and not paying off their balance in full will pay a lower monthly 1.7 per cent (an annual rate of 22.42

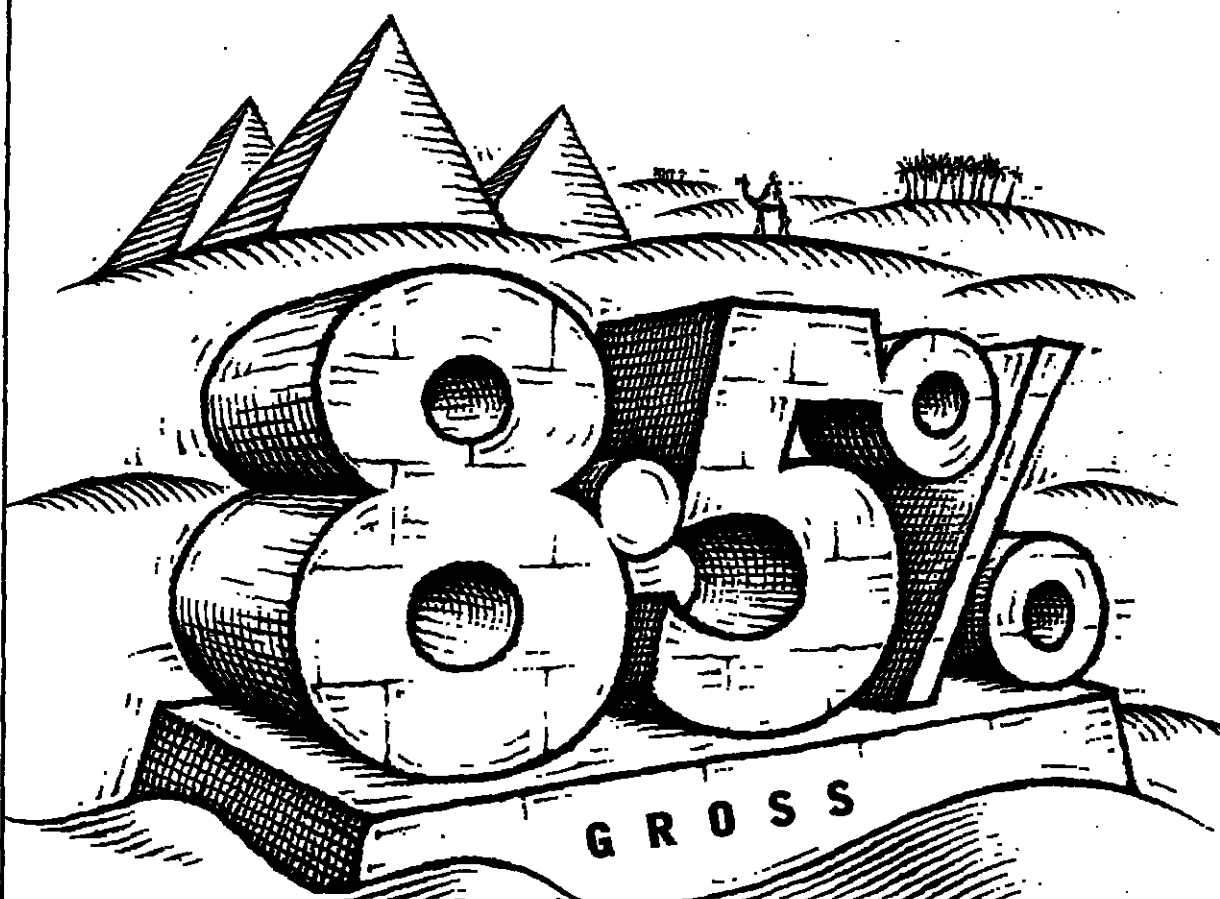
per cent). Those who set up a monthly direct debit to pay off their minimum balance will also get this rate. Customers spending less than £100 a month and not clearing their balance will be penalised with a higher 2.2 per cent a month (APR 29.84 per cent). This would make the Robert Owen card one of the most expensive for such customers. Those who have spent more than £100 will be charged 1.95 per cent a month (an APR of 26.08 per cent). Cardholders must use the card at least ten times a year.

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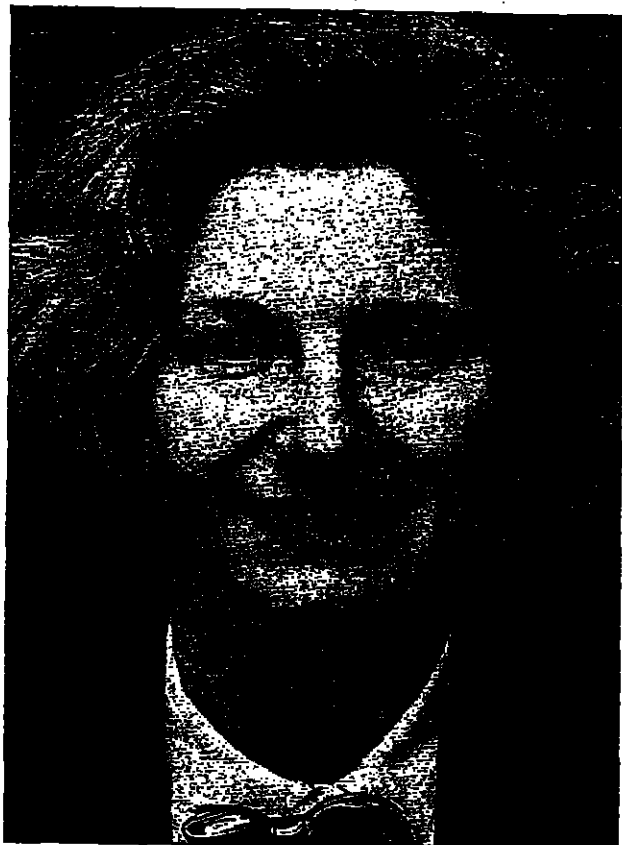
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Battling with the banking brigade: Monique Allan

Customers reach deadlock over banking complaints

Liz Dolan reports on two cases where customers are accusing banks of stalling their enquiries

TWO customers this week accused Barclays and National Westminster of dragging out their complaints processes unnecessarily and delaying the investigation of the complaints by the banking ombudsman.

The ombudsman cannot investigate until a bank's internal complaints procedures have been exhausted. If no agreement is reached, the bank issues a "deadlock letter" allowing the ombudsman's enquiry to go ahead.

Monique Allan, who took a complaint to the banking ombudsman at the beginning of the year, is still trying to get her bank to agree to the case being heard.

She said: "I cannot help but suspect that they are trying either to wear me down or bore me into giving up."

Another customer, who has had to wait nearly as long, maintains his complaint

"went round in circles" at his bank for months after the two sides had clearly reached deadlock. Two weeks ago, the bank finally issued the magic "deadlock letter".

Both complainants say the banks have remained consistently opposed to the ombudsman's decision to investigate the complaints because the areas involved fall outside his jurisdiction. Ms Allan says her bank, Barclays, was still questioning the terms of reference three months after the ombudsman had agreed to act.

Barclays has yet to issue a "deadlock letter". Instead, it has requested another meeting to try to reach agreement.

Ms Allan said: "I have agreed to see them because I want to show willing. But I am very suspicious about all this. I am worried that they will use the meeting to prove we still haven't reached deadlock."

She says she will not go to Tuesday's meeting unless Barclays confirms in writing that her presence in no way weakens her own and the ombudsman's contention that the case is within his terms of reference.

Ms Allan, a barrister, intends to bring another lawyer to witness the discussion.

The other complainant, a National Westminster customer, says his own bank manager advised him to contact the ombudsman after they had failed over a number of months to reach agreement.

The ombudsman agreed to investigate the complaint and requested a letter from the bank stating that deadlock had been reached.

Months of delay followed, the customer says, during which the senior legal adviser, who had been dealing with the case, referred it back to NatWest's customer relations officer.

"Then it looked as though they were going to go into it from the beginning all over again. It felt as though they were stalling for time. It just went backwards and forwards, while they said continually that they disagreed with the ombudsman's decision to look into the case."

Both cases involve disputes about obsolete accounts. The complainants maintain their respective banks failed to inform them that the interest rates paid on their savings had been cut after the accounts had been closed to new customers. The banking ombudsman has already ruled in favour of people who made similar complaints about obsolete building society accounts.

The banking ombudsman has taken up both cases because they related to the question of whether banks had given "reasonable and proper" advice to customers when the accounts were downgraded.

Chris Eadie, deputy banking ombudsman, said: "No matter how strongly a bank puts its case, there is no question of our changing our minds if we have made a decision on merit. We would hope that banks are not refusing to issue a deadlock letter because they consider a case ineligible for investigation by the ombudsman. It is the ombudsman's decision, not the bank's."

Barclays said: "Deadlock letters are only written when the relationship has broken down. The Monique Allan case continues in discussion. The relationship has not broken down. We continue to publish all interest rates in leaflets in all our branches."

NatWest said: "The question of whether it is right for this type of dispute to be dealt with by the banking ombudsman is something we are presently in discussion with him about."

The banks contend that, under the Code of Banking Practice, they are only obliged to announce rate changes in the press and to display current rates in all branches.

Spotlight on status of PAM

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

INVESTORS with Protected Asset Management could be confused about the status of the independent financial adviser, which specialises in broker bonds.

The firm, whose principal is Edwin Forry Hargitt, was, according to the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra), suspended at the beginning of last month under rule 7. This meant it could not conduct, complete or solicit any investment business.

Not so, says a spokeswoman for the firm, who identified herself as a daughter of Mr Hargitt. "We were never suspended. We were trading under a direction."

The regulator countered that Protected Asset Management was suspended and had been told not to conduct any investment business. It was still, however, a member of the association. Fimbra said it had acted because of "the member's misconduct in relation to the use of a misleading and unauthorised statement on a standard client application form".

While Fimbra says staff must be told when a firm is suspended, not all the clients have to be informed. Protected Asset Management does not deal directly with investors but with other brokers, who were informed of the direction, according to the spokeswoman.

Two weeks later on October 15, the suspension was varied, according to Fimbra, so that the broker, at Manchester

Street in London's West End, could carry on limited investment business with the prior approval of the regulator.

But this restriction was lifted on November 13 and the firm can now continue in the investment business for which it is authorised. Fimbra said: "There is always a very good reason in investor protection terms for suspending a firm. In the majority of cases, usually disciplinary proceedings follow. That is between the association and the member."

The firm is a category two member of the regulator, which is authorised to handle client money and operate as a broker fund manager.

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Because of this, only the most buoyant markets would have safeguarded the original capital.

The spokeswoman said the income and growth bond was no longer marketed. She said the firm had not been suspended. "Throughout the period we continued to manage funds."

The profit and loss account of Protected Asset Management shows that on a turnover of £233,877 in the year ending March 30, 1992, the firm made a gross profit of £142,663 and retained a profit of £646.

Fimbra, where Godfrey



Jillings: suspensions

Jillings is chief executive, has 50 suspended members at present. It says it has suspended 470 members; up to the end of last year, 20 per cent were restored to full membership. This year 15 per cent of suspended firms have returned to unrestricted investment business. For the others it is a step on the way to having their membership revoked.

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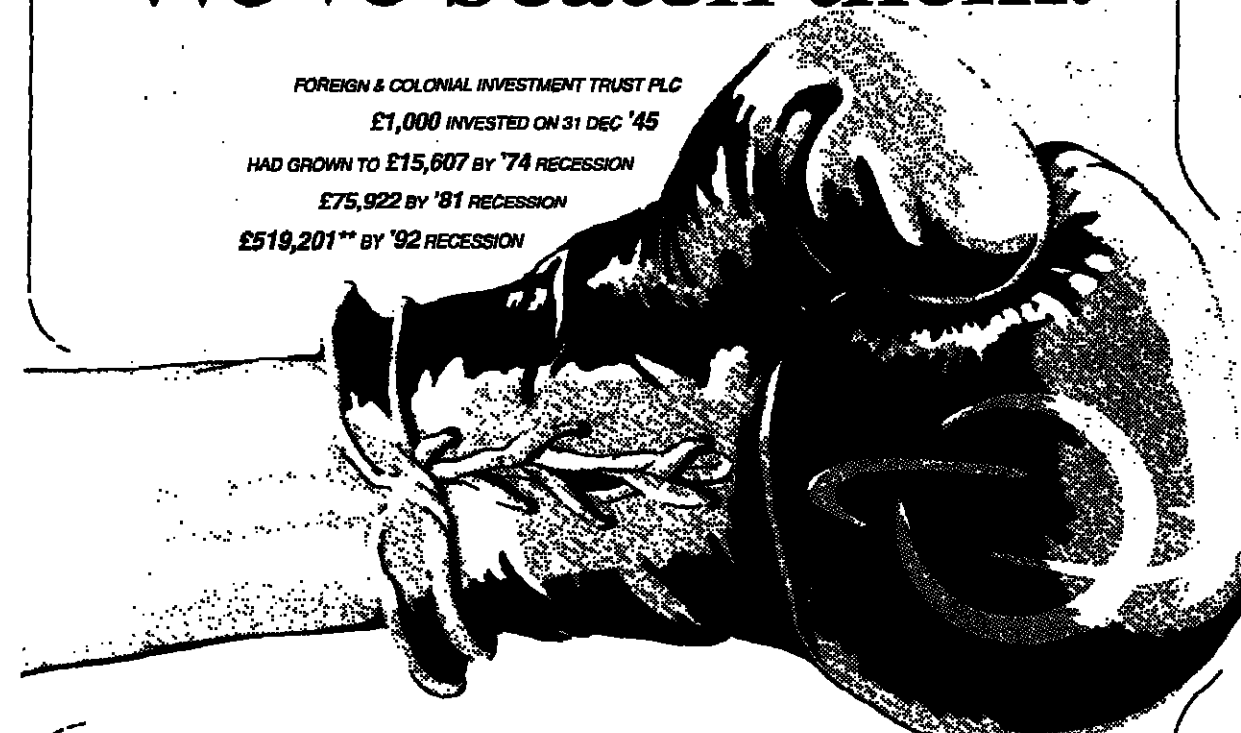
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*Source: Mifflin to 30.9.92. Figures are based on total return, net income reinvested. **Calculation by Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd using mid-market prices, net income reinvested up to 30.9.92. Includes dividend 3.5% (nominal) and 0.5% (nominal) stamp duty (minimum 50p). Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd is Manager of nine Foreign & Colonial Investment Trusts and a member of IMRO. The value of shares can fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount invested. Past performance is no guide to the future.

Foreign bonds and funds challenge rates in UK

By Sara McConnell

AS interest rates on bank and building society accounts fall to new lows, savers are starting to look for other places to take their money. Many cash and bond funds are paying several percentage points more than their high street rivals and have reported a surge of interest since September.

The latest rate cut means that many smaller savers with less than £5,000 in an instant access account are barely receiving a positive net return on their money. Abbey National and the Leeds Permanent are both paying 3.9 per cent.

But anyone with at least £1,000 to invest could get up to 5 per cent net, 7 per cent gross, after charges, on a cash fund. These are unit trusts investing in the money market accounts of UK-based banks. Unlike equity-based unit trusts, they have no initial charge.

Fidelity has seen "tremendous interest" in its cash fund since interest rates began to fall in earnest following Britain's departure from the ERM. Judy Delafosse, Fidelity's product development manager, said that the fund had now attracted £96 million, compared with £68 million in October. But Ms Delafosse said: "The overall perception is that people do not seem to be aware that there is a general nationwide downward trend. They think it is just their building society that is cutting rates."

Interest paid by a cash fund is calculated on the balance in the fund on a daily basis and investors can take a monthly income. The minimum lump sum investment is £1,000 and the minimum regular monthly investment £50.

Julian Tregoning, Save & Prosper's director of investment products, said there had been a "steady flow of money into the company's cash fund" but it had been "from a low level". The cash fund is paying 6.23 per cent gross, 4.67 per cent net after charges, with a minimum balance of £1,000.

The minimum top-up investment is £250. As with Fidelity's fund, investors have instant access to their money. Most savers who usually put their money with a building society are reluctant to go



offshore, said Fidelity. However, companies with offshore currency funds are also offering better rates on sterling deposits than high street banks and building societies.

Rothschild Asset Management, which has just under £1.4 billion of offshore currency funds under management on Guernsey, is offering a gross yield after charges of 7.41 per cent on its sterling fund. There is no minimum investment. Income is paid gross and can be paid as

lower rates on their bank fund than they were, but this has been counterbalanced by people who have been looking at what they can get in an onshore account.

Fidelity has seen its offshore money funds grow from \$80 million in early September to \$135 million now. The most popular currencies are sterling, which pays 6.54 per cent gross, dollars, giving 2.14 per cent gross, and German marks, 8.14 per cent gross.

"We are seeing a public-driven, intelligent demand, for bonds."

Bond funds benefit when interest rates are on their way down because the capital value of gilts and government bonds rises. Investors holding bonds from governments in countries where interest rates are higher than in Britain also make money on the yield from the fund. Those holding bonds in foreign currencies could also benefit from the weakness of sterling.

Mercury's bond fund is paying 5.25 per cent gross after charges. The minimum investment is £1,000.

Guinness Flight has been promoting bond funds strongly for the last 20 months and has noticed that in October it doubled its monthly inflow to £2 million and expects November's total to be higher.

The group offers a monthly income plan using its premium fixed interest, global high income and EMU funds. The three bond unit trusts aim to produce a high level of income and are currently giving a gross income of about 9 per cent. The minimum investment in each of the trusts is £1,000 and to get monthly income at least £1,000 has to be paid into each trust.

'We are seeing a public-driven, intelligent demand, for bonds'

income or rolled up. Investors can hold their money in any one of 18 currencies, including sterling. Whichever UK domiciled investors choose, they will have to pay tax on income when the funds are repatriated to the UK. But by rolling up the income, tax can be deferred.

William Ramsay, Rothschild Asset Management's managing director, reported an "upsurge" of interest. "There have been strong net inflows. There are people who are concerned that they are

Companies are also reporting a significant interest in bond funds. These funds invest in a combination of gilts and international government bonds. Unlike cash and deposit funds, the capital investment in a bond can grow as well as paying out a yield. But the value of the investment can go down as well as up, unlike a deposit account.

Richard Royds, managing director of Mercury Asset Management, which has £200 million under management in its bond fund, said:

Royal Life to slim broker funds

By Sara McConnell

ROYAL Life is planning to close or merge up to 25 of its broker funds because their performance has been unacceptably poor. Some of them have been losing 20 per cent a year. The company is expected to make a decision next week on which funds will be closed, and the first closures could come as early as next month.

Many more broker funds run by other life offices could also be closed as companies start to take advantage of new powers given to them by the trade department a year ago this month. These gave legal force to the principle that life offices should be accountable for the acts of those they appoint to manage their broker funds.

Rod Sweeney, Royal Life's investments product director, said the company had been "more than worried" about the performance of some of the funds languishing at the bottom of the performance tables. The company has already closed 23 funds this year. Likely candidates for closure or merger with Royal's internal funds include the G & T Smaller Companies fund and Master Portfolio A, B and C.

G & T has turned a sum of £100

invested on January 1 1990 into just £20.85, according to statistics from Micropal. The same sum invested on December 2 last year would have almost halved to £53.02. Master Portfolio C has done little better, turning £100 invested on January 1 1992 into £53.40. Mr Sweeney said: "Some of these funds were quite large in the halcyon days of the 1980s, but the poor performance is simply down to poor stock selection."

He said it was difficult to compare the performance of a Royal broker fund with a Royal internal fund investing in roughly similar stocks because brokers' investment objectives could be different. Under rules drawn up last year, brokers are also able to set their own benchmarks of investment performance, so that investors can see whether or not these have been reached. However, the Royal Heritage Option Emerging Companies market, a smaller companies fund like G & T's, had grown 3.4 per cent over the last month and 7.4 per cent over the last three years.

Brokers can now only recommend a broker fund if they can prove to their client and to the Financial Intermediary

Association, their regulator, that they are offering "added value" by their investment skills and so giving good advice. They get extra commission for running their own funds and this adds an extra layer of charges for the investor. The life company also makes a charge for administering the fund.

Until this time last year, life companies running broker funds could not intervene if performance was poor because the broker was accountable only to the investor as his client. The trade department regulations now say "life offices will be permitted to link to externally managed funds (broker funds) only if they accept responsibility for the acts of the fund managers in their capacity as fund managers." Life companies are not responsible if a broker misappropriates clients' money, "nor do the regulations make life offices responsible for competent investment decisions properly taken but which nonetheless result in loss."

Royal will write to the investors with money in any of the bond funds it closes or merges giving them a month's notice of its action.

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The Abbey National says demand for fixed rates has been strong since Black Wednesday. Its seven-year fixed rate loan of 8.65 per cent fixed until January 31, 2000, was withdrawn this week and replaced with another at 8.69 per cent. Similarly, a rate of 6.99 per cent fixed until January 31, 1995, has been withdrawn in favour of another with a higher rate of 7.29 per cent fixed for the same length of time. Both new loans have a fee of £199. Customers remortgaging or switching to Abbey National receive up to £250 in legal expenses and mortgage valuation fees.

Birmingham Midshires also has a long-term fixed rate of 7.99 per cent until January 1, 1998. There is an arrangement fee of £295. Other rates of offer from the society include a two-year fixed rate of 6.99 per cent, with an arrangement fee of £195 and a capped rate of 7.79 per cent for two years.

Norwich and Peterborough has a rate fixed at 8.5 per cent for five years. There is a fee of £95 and buildings insurance must be taken out through the society. Borrowers who redeem the mortgage in the first year have to pay five months' interest. It also has a fixed rate of 6.55 per cent until January 1, 1994. This loan has a non-refundable fee of £125 and buildings insurance has to be taken out through the society.

Stroud & Swindon borrowers taking advantage of the society's 6.95 per cent two-year fixed rate also have to take out buildings insurance through the society. There is an application fee of £150.

Nationwide has a new fixed rate of 7.25 per cent for two years. However, the offer will be available only to those who also take out the society's mortgage payment protection policy. This covers payments if borrowers are made redundant or are unable to work through sickness or accident.

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Despite recession, hundreds of thousands of firms are starting up

Banks woo the newly redundant with business startup packages

By KAREN WOOLFSON

BANKS are fielding a growing number of enquiries from people who want to start up businesses after they have received a redundancy package or because they face the threat of unemployment.

Despite the recession, almost 200,000 small businesses started up in the first half of this year, according to NatWest's Small Business Startup Index released this week and it is expected that more than 400,000 will form by the end of the year.

Most of the start-ups have been in the South East, followed by the Midlands and Wales, with the lowest level of activity in the South West.

The big four banks are offering special accounts, loans, incentive and advice to business customers ranging from how to obtain government grants to drawing up a business plan and marketing.

The services vary considerably, but before working out which suits a person best the banks advise potential clients to consider whether they have enough initiative, resilience and determination to see their business plan through.

Dean Farrow, who started up the publishing company Sentacom in the City of London six years ago, warned: "It's a buzz, a challenge and a game, but you have to sacrifice everything."

He added: "You need 100 per cent commitment and five years to see it through. Don't do it unless you believe in your dream. You have to keep the tax and VAT man happy. There's a lot of pressure and a lot of worry."

National Westminster Bank is offering people who open a business account with them a free Betacom telephone, £125 discount on a Canon fax and a 20 per cent discount on a Panasonic answering machine until the end of this month.

The NatWest start-up service begins with talking to the small business adviser at any branch who gives customers a comprehensive 34-page guide and helps find out whether they are entitled to any government or EC grant.

The government offers a loan guarantee scheme to firms unable to take out conventional loans because they lack security or a past track



Start of a dream for many: NatWest is one bank offering incentives for those wishing to begin a new business

record. Under this, 70 per cent of the loan is guaranteed over two to seven years at a premium of 2.5 per cent.

Details of this scheme and others are available from the DTI and local government Training and Enterprise Councils around the country. There is also a Business Expansion Scheme which makes shares in small firms more attractive by granting tax relief on up to £40,000.

British Coal Enterprise is offering low-interest loans to firms thinking of locating in coalmining areas, while British Steel Industry offers similar incentives for traditional steel areas.

An Enterprise Allowance scheme for the unemployed who want to set up their own business is also available, usually consisting of weekly payments for the first year to see them through the difficult early stages.

NatWest gives 12 months banking free of the usual transaction fees, provided the business customer's account stays in credit and no more than £100,000 is paid out. If extra capital is needed in the first year the customer can apply for the Business Startup Loan which gives a preferential rate of interest below that of the standard fixed-rate

Business Development Loan. This allows between £1,000 to £15,000 to be borrowed for up to ten years, with monthly interest rates as well as repayments the same during the term of the loan, although customers can arrange to pay interest only for a maximum of the first six months.

Lloyds Bank offers commission-free banking for small business accounts who forecast a yearly turnover of not

banking whether in credit or overdrawn, standard orders, direct debits, statements and cash payments.

Midland Bank also has booklets giving customers advice on the first steps to setting up a business, right down to the monitoring control and growth of it.

Neil Harle, manager of Midland Enterprise, said in the current climate of unemployment: "If one is made

'It's a buzz, a challenge and a game, but you have to sacrifice everything'

more than £100,000 whether in credit, or less than £100 overdrawn.

The customer also receives a Small Business Guide worth £14.99, a starter pack and two years' free subscription to the joint venture service with Dun & Bradstreet which provides debt collection, credit management and training.

Small business loans from £1,000 to £15,000 are available with repayment terms of up to five years. Loans of over £15,000 are available for up to 30 years.

In addition, people who qualify for the Enterprise Allowance scheme receive free

redundant the options are to retire, get another job or start up your own business, and the latter may sometimes be the only option."

Like rival banks, Midland offers 12 months' commission-free banking for its business customers, about 90 per cent of whom have a turnover of £50,000 or less.

Midlands Enterprise loans of up to £15,000 can be paid over a period of up to 10 years and incur no arrangement or other fee. The Business Loan for £5,000 and over is typically 3 or 4 per cent above base rate, but it negotiable according to the manager's risk assess-

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THE Institute of Chartered Accountants has produced a leaflet to help those setting up a business. It advises people planning to take the plunge to avoid the Christopher Columbus approach. When he set out on his journey, he did not know where he was going. He did not know where he was when he arrived and when he got back, he did not know where he had been.

Accountants, the free leaflet says, will help new businessmen and women to decide

whether they will be best as a sole trader, a partnership or a limited company.

Once the business is up and running accountants can help with budgets, forecasts, tax and VAT regulations and the preparations of wage and salary calculations. They will also help to raise finance and guide on whether to invest family money.

The leaflet is available free from the Institute at PO Box 433, Moorgate Place, London EC2P 2BJ.

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Performance since launch Year ended 31st December	£1,000 Lump Sum		£40 a month	
	Building Society	M&G International Growth	Amount Invested	Building Society M&G International Growth
19 Dec 1967	£1,000	£1,000	-	-
1967	1,000	973	£40	£40
1968	1,044	1,510	480	491
1969	1,095	1,417	960	1,008
1970	1,150	1,325	1,440	1,551
1971	1,208	1,822	1,920	2,122
1972	1,267	2,686	2,400	2,720
1973	1,351	2,220	2,880	3,397
1974	1,455	1,456	3,360	4,157
1975	1,561	1,970	3,840	4,961
1976	1,673	1,843	4,320	5,814
1977	1,792	2,271	4,800	6,725
1978	1,909	2,564	5,280	7,663
1979	2,074	3,332	5,760	8,827
1980	2,294	4,891	6,240	10,271
1981	2,510	4,768	6,720	11,740
1982	2,735	5,868	7,200	13,299
1983	2,938	8,135	7,680	14,783
1984	3,170	9,452	8,160	16,449
1985	3,451	9,869	8,640	18,413
1986	3,724	12,585	9,120	20,368
1987	4,013	11,193	9,600	22,447
1988	4,300	13,115	10,080	24,552
1989	4,705	18,362	10,560	27,372
1990	5,214	14,240	11,040	30,838
1991	5,653	17,580	11,520	33,939
30 Oct 1992	5,981*	20,260	11,920	36,319*

Notes: All figures include re-invested income net of basic-rate tax. M&G International Growth figures show the return to the investor. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). The regular savings figures exclude the last payment and all payments are made on the last business day of the month.

An investment in M&G International Growth of £1,000 on 30th October, 1987 would be worth £1,695 by 30th October, 1992, and an investment of £40 a month from 30th October, 1987 (£2,400) would be worth £2,994 by 30th October, 1992 - net income reinvested. *Estimated using current interest rate levels. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up. You may get back less than you invested.

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	Normal rate	Compounded 25% 40%	Investment 2	Notice	Contact
BANKS					
Ordinary Dep A/c	0.36	0.36	0.30	1,000	7 day
Fixed Term Deposits					
Barclays	4.45	4.45	3.58	25,000-50,000	1 mth 071-825 1887
Lloyds	4.45	4.45	3.58	25,000-50,000	1 mth 071-825 1887
Mitland	4.45	4.45	3.58	25,000-50,000	1 mth 071-825 1887
West	4.45	4.45	3.58	25,000-50,000	1 mth 071-825 1887
Yorkshire	4.45	4.45	3.58	25,000-50,000	1 mth 071-825 1887
High Interest Cheque Accounts					
Bank of Scotland	4.98	5.10	4.08	2,500+	none 081-442 7777
Barclays	2.63	2.66	2.19	2,500+	none 0804 262891
Co-operative	0.36	0.36	0.30	800+	none 071-825 1887
First Direct	0.36	0.36	0.30	800+	none 071-825 1887
Lloyds	0.36	0.36	0.30	800+	none 071-825 1887
Mitland	0.36	0.36	0.30	800+	none 071-825 1887
West	0.36	0.36	0.30	800+	none 071-825 1887
Yorkshire	0.36	0.36	0.30	800+	none 071-825 1887
Special Reserve	1.50	1.51	1.21	500+	none 0800 280 400
Royal Bank of Scotland	3.00	3.05	2.42	2,000	none 081-556 8655
First Direct	2.08	2.08	1.65	2,000+	none 071-400 6000

	Normal rate	Compounded 25% 40%	Investment 2	Notice	Contact
BUILDING SOCIETIES					
Ordinary Share A/c	1.75	1.75	1.75	1+	none
Best buy - largest sizes:					
Cheltenham & GL	7.50	7.50	6.75	10,000 min	Postal
Cheltenham & GL	7.50	7.50	6.75	20,000 min	Postal
First Direct	5.75	5.75	4.92	50,000 min	30 day
First Direct	5.75	5.75	4.92	50,000 min	60 day
First Direct	5.75	5.75	4.92	50,000 min	90 day
First Direct	5.75	5.75	4.92	50,000 min	1 year
Best buy - all sizes:					
Cheltenham & GL	7.50	7.50	6.75	25,000 min	Postal
Cheltenham & GL	7.50	7.50	6.75	25,000 min	Postal
Cheltenham & GL	7.50	7.50	6.75	25,000 min	Postal
Cheltenham & GL	7.50	7.50	6.75	25,000 min	Postal
Cheltenham & GL	7.50	7.50	6.75	25,000 min	Postal
Cheltenham & GL	7.50	7.50	6.75	25,000 min	Postal
Cheltenham & GL	7.50	7.50	6.75	25,000 min	Postal
Cheltenham & GL	7.50	7.50	6.75	25,000 min	Postal
Cheltenham & GL	7.50	7.50	6.75	25,000 min	Postal

	Normal rate	Compounded 25% 40%	Investment 2	Notice	Contact
NATIONAL SAVINGS					
Investment A/c	6.25	6.25	5.42	10,000	8 day 041-440-4555
Investment A/c	6.25	6.25	5.42	10,000	8 day 041-440-4555
Investment A/c	6.25	6.25	5.42	10,000	8 day 041-440-4555
Investment A/c	6.25	6.25	5.42	10,000	8 day 041-440-4555
Investment A/c	6.25	6.25	5.42	10,000	8 day 041-440-4555
Investment A/c	6.25	6.25	5.42	10,000	8 day 041-440-4555
Investment A/c	6.25	6.25	5.42	10,000	8 day 041-440-4555
Investment A/c	6.25	6.25	5.42	10,000	8 day 041-440-4555
Investment A/c	6.25	6.25	5.42	10,000	8 day 041-440-4555
Investment A/c	6.25	6.25	5.42	10,000	8 day 041-440-4555

	Normal rate	Compounded 25% 40%	Investment 2	Notice	Contact
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS					
Property	5.50	5.50	5.02	25,000 min	1 yrs Figures from
Property	5.50	5.50	5.02	25,000 min	1 yrs Figures from
Property	5.50	5.50	5.02	25,000 min	1 yrs Figures from
Property	5.50	5.50	5.02	25,000 min	1 yrs Figures from
Property	5.50	5.50	5.02	25,000 min	1 yrs Figures from
Property	5.50	5.50	5.02	25,000 min	1 yrs Figures from
Property	5.50	5.50	5.02	25,000 min	1 yrs Figures from
Property	5.50	5.50	5.02	25,000 min	1 yrs Figures from
Property	5.50	5.50	5.02	25,000 min	1 yrs Figures from
Property	5.50	5.50	5.02	25,000 min	1 yrs Figures from

	Normal rate	Compounded 25% 40%	Investment 2	Notice	Contact
RATES					
RPI (Oct 91-92)	+3.6%				
Bank Base Rate	5.5%				
Personal Loan	25%				
Credit Card	25-27%				

	Normal rate	Compounded 25% 40%	Investment 2	Notice	Contact
TESSA					
National	6.25	6.25	5.42	10,000	8 day 041-440-4555
National	6.25	6.25	5.42	10,000	8 day 041-440-4555
National	6.25	6.25	5.42	10,000	8 day 041-440-4555
National	6.25	6.25	5.42	10,000	8 day 041-440-4555
National	6.25	6.25	5.42	10,000	8 day 041-440-4555
National	6.25	6.25	5.42	10,000	8 day 041-440-4555
National	6.25	6.25	5.42	10,000	8 day 041-440-4555
National	6.25	6.25	5.42	10,000	8 day 041-440-4555
National	6.25	6.25	5.42	10,000	8 day 041-440-4555
National	6.25	6.25	5.42	10,000	8 day 041-440-4555

	Normal rate	Compounded 25% 40%	Investment 2	Notice	Contact
HOLIDAY RATES					
Spanish Pesetas	169.00				
French Francs	206.00				
German Marks	2.36				
Italian Lira	2066.00				

	Normal rate	Compounded 25% 40%	Investment 2	Notice	Contact
BANKS					
Bank of Ireland	5.59	5.59	5.02	25,000	Capped to 1.34
Bank of Ireland	5.59	5.59	5.02	25,000	Capped to 1.34
Bank of Ireland	5.59	5.59	5.02	25,000	Capped to 1.34
Bank of Ireland	5.59	5.59	5.02	25,000	Capped to 1.34
Bank of Ireland	5.59	5.59	5.02	25,000	Capped to 1.34
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	Normal rate	Compounded 25% 40%	Investment 2	Notice	Contact
BANKS					
Bank of Ireland	5.59	5.59	5.02	25,000	Capped to 1.34
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	Normal rate	Compounded 25% 40%	Investment 2	Notice	Contact
BANKS					
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Bank of Ireland	5.59	5.59	5.02	25,000	Capped to 1.34

	Normal rate	Compounded 25% 40%	Investment 2	Notice	Contact
BANKS					
Bank of Ireland	5.59	5.59	5.02	25,000	Capped to 1.34
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Bank of Ireland	5.59	5.59	5.02	25,000	Capped to 1.34

	Normal rate	Compounded 25% 40%	Investment 2	Notice	Contact
BANKS					
Bank of Ireland	5.59	5.59	5.02	25,000	Capped to 1.34
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	Normal rate	Compounded 25% 40%	Investment 2	Notice	Contact
BANKS					
Bank of Ireland	5.59	5.59	5.02	25,000	Capped to 1.34
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Bank of Ireland	5.59	5.59	5.02	25,000	Capped to 1.34
Bank of Ireland	5.59	5.59	5.02	25,000	Capped to 1.34
Bank of Ireland	5.59	5.59	5.02	25,000	Capped to 1.34

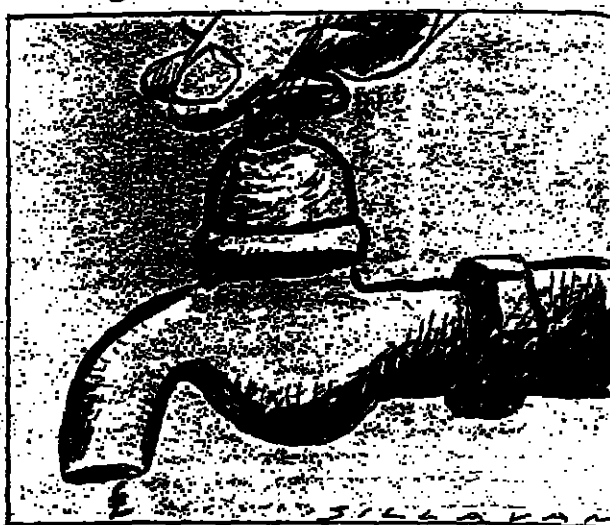
Poser for small savers in government tax-free bonds

From Mrs E.A. Forster

Sir, Since our children were born 11 and 10 years ago, we have been fortunate enough to be able to save their four-weekly Child Benefit Payment for them either as Premium Bonds, National Savings Certificates or Child Bonus Bonds. The benefit has always been enough to purchase £25 worth of savings for each of them.

It is now becoming increasingly more difficult to continue with this practice as it is no longer possible to buy National Savings Bonds in denominations smaller than £100. This minimum figure will also apply to Premium Bonds purchased for them, from next February. My daughters already have the maximum permitted holding in Child Bonus Bonds.

It seems sad that the Treasury no longer seems to care that it is preventing regular savers of small amounts of money investing in govern-



ment tax-free savings. How should I best invest this money now?

Yours faithfully,

E.A. FORSTER

Woodlands,

Bois Lane,

Chesham Bois,

Amersham,

Bucks.

Credit card arithmetic

From Mr B.E. Danton

Sir, Referring to the letter from Mr Douglas Pelling on his credit card account, I think I may have the answer to his query.

I have recently been in correspondence with National & Provincial Visa over a similar problem, but unlike Mr Pelling I received an almost immediate response and explanation. When I wrote back to say that I couldn't follow the explanation, they had the courtesy to telephone me, whereupon I was able to follow their logic.

I had made a cash withdrawal some six weeks earlier, when the account was in credit. Subsequently the account went into debit some two weeks later. It transpires that once the account is in debit, interest is charged on the cash withdrawal, even though the account was in credit at the time. If the account is not settled until the "due" date, interest continues to be charged from the "statement" date until the "due" date. Therefore a further interest charge will be shown on the next statement. This can go on for some months, diminishing each month.

Yours faithfully,

B.E. DANTON

20 Mere Close,

Newport,

Shropshire.

Abbey National cheques and interest

From Mr Charles Morland

Sir, I read

Portfolio

From your Portfolio Plus card check your daily share price movements on the page only. Add them up to give you your overall gain and check this against the daily dividend figure. If you have won or lost, you will see it on the page. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Share	Price	Div	%	P/E
1	First Nat Fin	Banking	100	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
2	Genor	Banking	100	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
3	Nat Aust Bk	Banking	100	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
4	Bank of NSW	Banking	100	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
5	Bank of QLD	Banking	100	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
6	Bank of SA	Banking	100	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
7	Bank of Vic	Banking	100	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
8	Bank of WA	Banking	100	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
9	Bank of NZ	Banking	100	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
10	Bank of Tas	Banking	100	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
11	Bank of ACT	Banking	100	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
12	Bank of NT	Banking	100	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
13	Bank of TFS	Banking	100	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
14	Bank of PNG	Banking	100	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
15	Bank of PNG	Banking	100	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
16	Bank of PNG	Banking	100	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
17	Bank of PNG	Banking	100	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
18	Bank of PNG	Banking	100	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
19	Bank of PNG	Banking	100	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
20	Bank of PNG	Banking	100	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0

1992 High Low Company Price Div % P/E

1	1st Nat Fin	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
2	Genor	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
3	Nat Aust Bk	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
4	Bank of NSW	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
5	Bank of QLD	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
6	Bank of SA	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
7	Bank of Vic	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
8	Bank of WA	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
9	Bank of NZ	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
10	Bank of Tas	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
11	Bank of ACT	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
12	Bank of NT	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
13	Bank of TFS	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
14	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
15	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
16	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
17	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
18	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
19	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
20	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0

BUSINESS SERVICES

1	1st Nat Fin	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
2	Genor	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
3	Nat Aust Bk	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
4	Bank of NSW	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
5	Bank of QLD	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
6	Bank of SA	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
7	Bank of Vic	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
8	Bank of WA	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
9	Bank of NZ	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
10	Bank of Tas	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
11	Bank of ACT	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
12	Bank of NT	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
13	Bank of TFS	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
14	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
15	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
16	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
17	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
18	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
19	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
20	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0

1992 High Low Company Price Div % P/E

1	1st Nat Fin	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
2	Genor	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
3	Nat Aust Bk	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
4	Bank of NSW	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
5	Bank of QLD	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
6	Bank of SA	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
7	Bank of Vic	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
8	Bank of WA	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
9	Bank of NZ	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
10	Bank of Tas	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
11	Bank of ACT	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
12	Bank of NT	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
13	Bank of TFS	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
14	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
15	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
16	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
17	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
18	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
19	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
20	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1	1st Nat Fin	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
2	Genor	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
3	Nat Aust Bk	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
4	Bank of NSW	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
5	Bank of QLD	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
6	Bank of SA	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
7	Bank of Vic	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
8	Bank of WA	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
9	Bank of NZ	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
10	Bank of Tas	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
11	Bank of ACT	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
12	Bank of NT	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
13	Bank of TFS	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
14	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
15	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
16	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
17	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
18	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
19	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
20	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0

BREWERIES

1	1st Nat Fin	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
2	Genor	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
3	Nat Aust Bk	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
4	Bank of NSW	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
5	Bank of QLD	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
6	Bank of SA	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
7	Bank of Vic	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
8	Bank of WA	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
9	Bank of NZ	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
10	Bank of Tas	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
11	Bank of ACT	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
12	Bank of NT	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
13	Bank of TFS	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
14	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
15	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
16	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
17	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
18	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
19	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
20	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0

BUILDING, ROADS

1	1st Nat Fin	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
2	Genor	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
3	Nat Aust Bk	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
4	Bank of NSW	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
5	Bank of QLD	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
6	Bank of SA	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
7	Bank of Vic	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
8	Bank of WA	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
9	Bank of NZ	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
10	Bank of Tas	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
11	Bank of ACT	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
12	Bank of NT	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
13	Bank of TFS	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
14	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
15	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
16	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
17	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
18	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
19	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
20	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0

ELECTRICALS

1	1st Nat Fin	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
2	Genor	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
3	Nat Aust Bk	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
4	Bank of NSW	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
5	Bank of QLD	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
6	Bank of SA	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
7	Bank of Vic	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
8	Bank of WA	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
9	Bank of NZ	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
10	Bank of Tas	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
11	Bank of ACT	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
12	Bank of NT	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
13	Bank of TFS	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
14	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
15	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
16	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
17	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
18	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
19	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
20	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0

Confident end to account

ACCOUNTANTS: Dealings began November 16. Dealings ended yesterday. \$Contango day Monday. Settlement day December 7. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1992 High Low Company Price Div % P/E

1	1st Nat Fin	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
2	Genor	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
3	Nat Aust Bk	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
4	Bank of NSW	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
5	Bank of QLD	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
6	Bank of SA	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
7	Bank of Vic	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
8	Bank of WA	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
9	Bank of NZ	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
10	Bank of Tas	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
11	Bank of ACT	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
12	Bank of NT	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
13	Bank of TFS	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
14	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
15	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
16	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
17	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
18	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
19	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
20	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0

1992 High Low Company Price Div % P/E

1	1st Nat Fin	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
2	Genor	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
3	Nat Aust Bk	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
4	Bank of NSW	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
5	Bank of QLD	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
6	Bank of SA	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
7	Bank of Vic	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
8	Bank of WA	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
9	Bank of NZ	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
10	Bank of Tas	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
11	Bank of ACT	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
12	Bank of NT	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
13	Bank of TFS	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
14	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
15	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
16	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
17	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
18	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
19	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
20	Bank of PNG	1.00	0.00	0.0	1.0

30 UNIT TRUST PRICES

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST

THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28 1992

[illegible]

FT-SE VOLUMES			
Boley Nat 1,800	Carlson Tech 4,777	Scott Hydro 2,000	Scott & New 1,100
Del-Lyons 1,000	Cosco Wyl 5,000	Legal & Gen 1,885	Seal Power 1,100
Engin W 1,660	Cnt Unifin 1,000	MID Card 1,900	Seas 2,100
Gen Wagon 1,000	Cnt Consol 1,000	NBS Bldg 2,600	Shel Trans 4,900
Gen Foods 534	De La Rue 500	NFC 2,200	Slebe 1,700
IA 1,900	Entierp Oil 1,000	Nip Spr 1,600	SMK Inc 2,000
IND 2,400	Flors 1,700	Nit Power 4,200	Smith Rich 1,400
Inte 4,800	Glenn 1,700	Nitro Res 1,600	Stam 1,400
Inte 4,800	GRS 1,700	P & O 2,600	Starn Elec 341
7,500	GUS A 715	Pearson 1,000	Stn Altinc 1,900
TR 3,700	Gen Acc 1,700	PTZ 4,500	TI GP 1,600
Gen of Scot 3,700	Gen Elec 1,700	Prntental 2,600	Tide 2,600
Sec 3,700	Gran 3,500	Rank Org 534	Tide & Lyle 3,000
Unif 2,800	Grand Met 4,400	Reichr Col 654	Thames 6,800
Unif 2,800	Guinness 1,600	Reichr Col 654	Tesco W 1,200
Unif 2,800	HA 1,600	Reichr Col 654	Tren Edm 1,400
Unif 2,800	Hanson 8,200	Reichr Col 654	Tren Edm 1,400
Unif 2,800	ICI 1,700	Reichr Col 654	Unif 2,800
Unif 2,800	Incepace 1,300	Reichr Col 654	Unif 2,800
Unif 2,800	Kingsphar 1,300	Reichr Col 654	Unif 2,800
Unif 2,800	Levi 1,300	Reichr Col 654	Unif 2,800
Unif 2,800	LASMO 7,500	Reichr Col 654	Unif 2,800
Unif 2,800	Ladbroke 4,200	Reichr Col 654	Unif 2,800

MAJOR INDICES

New York	
Dow Jones	3282.20 (+15.94)
S&P Composite	430.16 (+0.97)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Avge	17470.61 (-6.43)
Hong Kong	
Hang Sen	5986.57 (+73.49)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Tendency	103.2 (flat)
Sydney: AO	1450.8 (-0.11)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	1522.95 (+0.23)

FTSE Euro 100:	1049.92 (+1.87)
General:	
Crusells	5565.20 (+7.04)
Paris: CAC	463.13 (+3.56)
Zurich: S&P Gen	389.5 (+1.4)
London:	
FT A All-Share	1305.22 (+7.66)
FT 500	1448.52 (+8.16)
FT Gold Mines	88.80 (+1.28)
FT Food & Inters	108.38 (-0.28)
FT Govt Secs	93.44 (+0.31)
SEAO Volume	246.56
USM (Datastrm)	115.09 (+0.21)

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
November 23	December 4	February 25	March 8
All options were taken out on 27/11/92: ACCO, ASDA, Bisco, Cannon Street Inv, Fernetti, Whitgate Leisure.			

was Amber Day, Ratnes. Put & Call: Amber Day.

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100						
Previous open interest: 4327	Dec 92	2760.0	2793.0	2744.0	2785.0	7681
	Mar 93	2777.0	2812.0	2780.0	2807.0	79
Three Month Sterling						
Previous open interest: 247840	Dec 92	92.86	92.87	92.78	92.79	9241
	Mar 93	93.85	93.68	93.50	93.51	10770
	Dec 92	93.85	93.94	93.77	93.78	2390
Three Mth Eurodollar						
Previous open interest: 27892	Dec 92	96.04	96.08	95.83	95.83	1212
	Mar 93	96.11	96.14	96.08	96.08	1091
Three Mth Euro DM						
Previous open interest: 431302	Dec 92	91.22	91.24	91.17	91.17	19076
	Mar 93	92.23	92.28	92.13	92.17	46543
US Treasury Bond						
Previous open interest: 790	Dec 92	102.81	102.83	102.13	102.15	273
	Mar 93	102.90	102.90	102.85	102.85	273
Long Gilt						
Previous open interest: 65724	Dec 92	99.24	99.29	99.05	99.08	23346
	Mar 93	99.09	99.13	98.96	98.92	12151
Japanese Govt Bond						
	Dec 92	108.17	108.17	108.10	108.12	56
	Mar 93	107.53	107.53	107.46	107.52	482
German Govt Bond						
Previous open interest: 104761	Dec 92	91.58	91.43	91.17	91.18	41463
	Mar 93	91.90	91.69	91.50	91.52	12072
Three month ECU						
Previous open interest: 13364	Dec 92	89.40	89.45	89.27	89.30	760
	Mar 93	91.07	91.07	90.88	90.90	760
Swiss Franc						
Previous open interest: 42119	Dec 92	93.57	93.57	93.43	93.47	413
	Mar 93	94.29	94.21	94.12	94.14	2890
Italian Govt Bond						
Previous open interest: 23511	Dec 92	94.22	94.25	94.10	94.30	5597
	Mar 93	94.96	94.96	94.85	94.85	12072

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 78.4
(day's range 78.4-78.5).

Mkt Rates for Nov 27	Range	Close	1 month	3 months
Australia	2.7137-2.7171	1-1/2	1-1/2	1-1/2
Swiss	49.60-49.83	2-1/2	1-1/2	10-10 1/2
Copenhagen	9.3070-9.4060	9.3130-9.3250	8 1/2-12 1/2	13 1/2-19 1/2
Oslo	9.8110-9.9100	9.8120-9.9027	12-14 1/2	33-63 1/2
Frankfurt	2.4136-2.4245	2.4141-2.4271	6-5 1/2	12-12 1/2
Leban	216.67-217.20	216.68-217.20	265-388	536-765
London	173.40-173.67	173.40-173.67	102-131	303-347
Milano	2105.30-2123.70	2105.30-2123.70	1-1 1/2	1-1 1/2
Montreal	9.1131-1.9462	1.9345-1.9366	0.10-0.24	0.18-0.23 1/2
New York	1.5086-1.5113	1.5085-1.5095	0.47-0.48	0.57-0.57 1/2
Oso	9.8640-9.9160	9.8650-9.9030	14 1/2-19 1/2	24 1/2-44 1/2
Paris	16.76-17.00	16.76-17.00	28-34 1/2	54-77 1/2
Stockholm	10.3210-10.3380	10.3230-10.3270	14-15 1/2	18-19 1/2
Tokyo	187.34-188.11	187.65-187.88	1-1/2	1-1 1/2
Vienna	16.76-17.00	16.76-17.00	28-34 1/2	54-77 1/2
Zurich	2.4761-2.4957	2.4797-2.4928	1-1/2	1-1/2

Source: *Estel*

Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

Argentina year	1.4932-1.4964	Australia	1.4492-1.4503
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[illegible][illegible]

COMMODITIES

and physical markets rather than typical Friday lunch had dried back; afternoon remained slow because frustrated and where a light flurry of

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm) Oper finally agreed a market ceiling of 24.52m barrels per day. The market was not impressed.

CRUDE OILS (Brent Pool)

Brent Physical	19.05	-0.20
Brent 15 day (Dec)	19.05	-0.20
Brent 15 Oct (Jan)	19.00	-0.25
W/Texas Intermediate (Feb)	unq	unq
W/Texas Intermediate (Mar)	unq	unq

PRODUCTS (\$/MT)

Spot CIF NY Europe (delivered)

Premium Gas oil - Bkt 20k (July)	Offer: 207 (n/c)
Gasoil Eder	175 (-1)
Nor Elec Ht Dec	176 (-1)
Nor Elec Ht Jan	179 (-1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	85 (n/c)
Naphtha	177 (n/c)
	88 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES

GNI LS

GAS OIL

Dec	174.75-75.00	Mar	175.50-75.75
Feb	176.50-76.75	Apr	177.00-77.00
Feb	177.25-77.50	May	166.50-65.75
			Net: 10996

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jan	18.00-18.91	Mar	unq
Feb	18.00-18.91	Apr	unq
Mar	18.89-18.88	May	Net: 28155

UNLEADED GASOLINE

Dec	196.50-97.00	Mar	200.00-02.50
Jan	194.00-96.00	Apr	200.00-07.00
Feb	193.00-91.00	May	Net: 294

BIFFER

GNI LS (d/d)

Dec 92	High: 1300	Low: 1290	Close: 1303
Jan 93	1280	1261	1280
Apr 93	1270	1269	1268
Nov 92			1265

Vols: 141 lots. Open lots: 3861 Endnote 1518 (+/-)

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE Rudolf Wolff

Copper 3 m (\$/tonne)	1440.0-1441.0	Zinc 1440.0-1444.5	Net: 318425
Lead 3 m (\$/tonne)	1052.0-1053.5		30875
Late Spot 3 m (\$/tonne)	1040.0-1020.0	(1094.0-1110.0)	308275
The \$/tonne	5448.0-5460.0	5725.0-5728.0	117030
Aluminium 3 m (\$/tonne)	1197.5-1194.0	1215.0-1215.5	826000
Nickel 3 m (\$/tonne)	5195.0-5920.0	5000.0-5991.0	53838

Australia dollar	2.1826-2.1857	Austria	11.56-11.58
Bahrain dollar	0.245-0.2475	Belgium (Cdn)	23.96-24.00
Brazil cruzeiro	14692.5-14718.5	Canada	1.2822-1.2830
Cypriot pound	0.7115-0.724	Denmark	6.18-6.19
Dutch guilder	7.7122-7.7025	France	4.8372-4.8375
Greece drachma	32.57-318.98	Germany	1.6048-1.6058
Hong Kong dollar	1.1591-1.1603	Hong Kong	7.7365-7.7375
India rupee	42.57-43.33	Italy	2.0231-2.0235
Indonesian Rupiah	0.4540-0.457	Japan	1398.5-1401.5
Malaysian dollar	3.8115-3.8161	Netherlands	126.40-126.45
Mexico peso	4.620-4.720	Norway	6.55-6.56
New Zealand dollar	2.5512-2.5281	Portugal	143.00-144.10
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8094-5.7160	Singapore	1.6750-1.6380
Singapore dollar	2.4651-2.4685	Spain	118.50-118.55
S. Africa rand (Cm)	1.1809-1.2610	Sweden	6.86-6.87
S. Africa rand (cont)	5.354-1.3602	Switzerland	1.4450-1.4460
U.A.E. dirham	5.5122-5.5975		

Overseas Bank GTS - Liqids Bank

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7% Finance Rate 9% Discount Market Lenses: Overnight 8% LOW 6% Week Bank 7%

Primary Bank Bills (Maturity: 2 mth 6% ; 3 mth 6% ; 6 mth 6% ; 9 mth 6% ; 12 mth 6%)

Primary Bank Bills (Due)	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Swelling Money Rates:	7.0%	7.0%	6.5%	6.0%	6.0%
Interbank:	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%	6.5%
Commodity open n/a, close n/a	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%	6.5%

Local Authority Rates:

Swelling CDs:	7%	3 m	7%	7	6%
Building CDs:	3.08-3.04	n/a	3.72-3.68	3.74-3.70	
Dollar Office CDs:	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%	

TREASURY BILLS: Applets 63x5m received: 11:00m; Bids: 598.39% received: 100% last week 590.3% ; received: 63% Avg rate 64.547% ; last wk 64.477% ; Next week: 610m.

Currency	1 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Cash
Dollar	3.0-3.0	3.0-3.0	3.0-3.0	3.0-3.0	3.0-3.0
Dutch guilder	3.0-3.0	3.0-3.0	3.0-3.0	3.0-3.0	3.0-3.0
Swiss Franc	10.0-10.0	10.0-10.0	10.0-10.0	10.0-10.0	10.0-10.0
Yen	6.0-6.0	6.0-6.0	6.0-6.0	6.0-6.0	6.0-6.0
Other	5.0-5.0	5.0-5.0	5.0-5.0	5.0-5.0	5.0-5.0

Bullion: Open \$333.00-334.30 Close \$333.00-334.30 High: \$334.00-334.30 Low: \$332.85-333.35 Kiosks: \$333.00-334.00 (\$220.75-221.75)

Sovereigns: Old \$78.00-81.00 (\$51.80-52.75) New \$78.50-81.50 (\$51.75-53.00)

Platinum: \$357.75 (\$236.90) Silver: \$324.67 (\$278.75)

23

Australia retain drive at end of road

Saracens ban Crawley for three weeks

Rise in injuries presents tough issue to tackle

The central text of any coach these days is defensive organisation. Suddenly, rugby has incorporated American football's jargon into its mainstream philosophy. Tackling must no longer be thought of as defensive, but offensive. The "offensive" tackle, as they say, is an "impact" tackle, aiming high so as not only to knock the man

were demolishing tackles. Tackling in rugby is both heroic and dramatic. But it is inherently dangerous. However, danger, to varying degrees, is part of a sport. What rugby must guard against is that it does not also become destructive. With the advent of sports scientists, analysts and dieticians, with thoughts of professionalism and a player able to devote more time to fitness and power training, the danger of the portly profile in the scrum has gone. To a extent rugby is fashionable, therefore to well-primed beefed-up athleticism the American football kind. Can mere skin, muscle and bone withstand the pressure of the bone-crushing chest-high tackle?

THE TIMES
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scored 36 and Salim Ali took three wickets for 37.
SCORES: Pakistanis 167 (44)

.....

overs! Pakistanis won by one run

Chatar

Yarranton convinced that problem will be solved

At the moment, the ministers for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland receive separate funding for sport for the individual nations.

season will close for the winter break.

December 15 when the outdoor season will close for the winter break.

and (11) at the

Chatam to lift second Hennessy

CHATAM, making his seasonal debut, can capture the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup for the second year running at Newbury today.

If he does succeed in the care of Peter Scudamore, Chatam will not only have become the first horse since Arkle to have won it twice in succession, he will also have landed a considerable ante-post bet.

The lack of a previous race did not prevent Chatam from triumphing last year. He strode home four lengths ahead of the subsequent Grand National winner, Party Politics, with the reliable Docklands Express a further seven lengths adrift in third place.

Nor should the lack of an outing be to his detriment since he has been to Cheltenham for a gallop in public.

Following that exercise, Martin Pipe pronounced Chatam spot-on for the big occasion.

With Francois Doumen's The Fellow, standing his ground, the weights have not risen overnight.

With 11st 4lb to carry, Chatam does not look overburdened now that the condi-

and Hennessy. While the Nick Gaselee-trained giant - he stands 18 hands - will be meeting Chatam on 4lb better terms, the feeling in his Upper Lambourn camp is that they could have done without the recent rain.

A slog through mud puts an additional strain on his breathing, which has long been suspect following two operations. However, Party Politics is thought to be at the height of his form, having blossomed physically since last season.

With Nigel Twiston-Davies's stable on a crest, last season's Scottish National winner, Captain Dibble, seems certain to give a good account of himself even with a 4lb penalty.

Jodami, another of last season's leading novices, ran well enough in his first race at Haydock, where he was beaten three lengths by Run For Free, to suggest that he can go well with only 10st 2lb to carry.

Significantly though, Chatam's trainer Martin Pipe has a good line on Jodami through Run For Free.

Races of this competitive nature are seldom won by horses who have to carry

appreciably more than their weight in the long handicap.

For that reason I do not fancy Bishops Hall, Gambling Royal, Latent Talent nor Siston Abbey.

No matter how Party Politics fares in the big race, Gaselee can still win the Fulke Walwyn Chase with Unshakeable.

Having learned his trade with the late and great trainer after whom the race is named, a victory on this occasion would taste particularly sweet.

Twelve months ago, Barrowmore was beaten only half-length by Cab On Target at the end of a thrilling duel in the 1000 Yard Long Distance Hurdle.

Now he can go one better, having trounced Nomadic Way by five lengths at Wetherby five weeks ago.

Even the talented Staunch Friend may fail to give weight to the progressive Mighty Mogul in the Bomsprint.

By a measure of the faith that Graham McCourt has in Counton can be gleaned by knowing that he turned down the ride on Party Politics at Newbury in order to partner the Mick Easterby-trained five-year-old in the Bellway Homes Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newcastle. The hint should be taken.

Gaselee has implicit faith in Unshakeable, whose dam, Another Breeze, was such a useful chaser in her heyday. Unshakeable had a similar rating to the Nicholson hope.

By all accounts, the way that Unshakeable has jumped fences in practice has been a revelation, and he is my nap to succeed on ground that he relishes.

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Even the talented Staunch Friend may fail to give weight to the progressive Mighty Mogul in the Bomsprint.

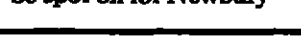
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Even the talented Staunch Friend may fail to give weight to the progressive Mighty Mogul in the Bomsprint.

Pipe reports Chatam to be spot-on for Newbury



MANDARIN	
12.45 Mighty Mogul.	1.15 Burgoyne.
1.50 Chatam.	2.25 King Of The Lot.
3.00 UNSHAKEABLE (nap).	3.25 Texan Tycoon.

RICHARD EVANS: 12.45 Mighty Mogul. 1.50 JODAMI (nap).
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.50 JODAMI.

GOING: SOFT (GOOD TO SOFT IN HOME STRAIGHT) SIS

12.45 BONSURPRISE GERRY FELDEN HURDLE	
(Handicap chase: Grade III: £36,160: 3m 2f 110yd) (13 runners)	

101 13313-3 DUKE OF MONTMOUTH 15 (5.5) (A) David S. Shawcross 4-11-4	101 13313-3 DUKE OF MONTMOUTH 15 (5.5) (A) David S. Shawcross 4-11-4
102 1145-15 RUMOR 24 (4.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4	102 1145-15 RUMOR 24 (4.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4
103 110-14 LIT AND LOUD 16 (5.5) (A) P. J. H. 5-11-4	103 110-14 LIT AND LOUD 16 (5.5) (A) P. J. H. 5-11-4
104 1121-11 STAMFORD FRIEND 15 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4	104 1121-11 STAMFORD FRIEND 15 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4
105 213-11 MIGHTY MOGUL 21 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4	105 213-11 MIGHTY MOGUL 21 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4
106 2622-11 SEEN 3 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4	106 2622-11 SEEN 3 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4
107 0121-11 STAMFORD FRIEND 15 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4	107 0121-11 STAMFORD FRIEND 15 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4
108 213-11 MIGHTY MOGUL 21 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4	108 213-11 MIGHTY MOGUL 21 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4
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111 213-11 MIGHTY MOGUL 21 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4	111 213-11 MIGHTY MOGUL 21 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4
112 2622-11 SEEN 3 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4	112 2622-11 SEEN 3 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4
113 0121-11 STAMFORD FRIEND 15 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4	113 0121-11 STAMFORD FRIEND 15 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4
114 213-11 MIGHTY MOGUL 21 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4	114 213-11 MIGHTY MOGUL 21 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4
115 2622-11 SEEN 3 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4	115 2622-11 SEEN 3 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4
116 0121-11 STAMFORD FRIEND 15 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4	116 0121-11 STAMFORD FRIEND 15 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4
117 213-11 MIGHTY MOGUL 21 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4	117 213-11 MIGHTY MOGUL 21 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4
118 2622-11 SEEN 3 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4	118 2622-11 SEEN 3 (5.5) (A) M. J. H. 5-11-4
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Saturday portrait: Peter Scudamore, by Alan Lee

Champion refuses to waver in blinkered pursuit of perfection

Peter Scudamore was eight when he was set a school essay imagining life 20 years hence. "I have been champion jockey for the past five seasons," he began precociously. Only his timing was awry.

When he was 28, the long wait in John Francome's exotic shadow was only just ending. But Scudamore is 34 now and has been champion for seven consecutive years, dominating his sport in a way denied to even his own boyhood heroes.

With the National Hunt season barely out of short trousers it seems early to be contemplating a death throes, but this week Richard Dunwoody has pulled clear of Scudamore in the winners' table and, for the first time, become the bookmakers' favourite for the title.

Agitation seldom shows in Scudamore but he has seen too much to be anxious yet, and the reign will not tightly be abdicated. His pale, searching features are not quite so solemn these days. He has learned to relax. Yesterday, he even took the day off. But do not mistake the readier smile even for contentment, much less complacency. "I still get annoyed when anybody else rides a winner," he explains. "That feeling doesn't fade. And there are a lot of things I like about being champion jockey. Being known gives me a certain freedom, a constant buzz. I'm not going to give that up easily."

He speaks quietly, thoughtfully and articulately. One of the first things to impress about Scudamore is his manner. He seldom swears, quite a rarity in this environment, and manages to be polite without being patronising. It is one reason why he is liked and respected without reserve, trusted implicitly by those inside and outside the sport.

There is none of the roguish charisma of Francome about Scudamore, and yet he has achieved wider esteem, consulted by those in racing to whom jockeys were once the paid menials, and followed slavishly by the punters who identify in him an honesty not always taken for granted in the betting shops.

He is, by his own admission, on borrowed time as a jockey. When he suffered a second broken leg last year, he briefly considered retiring. Then the pain and disillusionment eased and he banished the thought. But it is possible that this will be his final season, and it will certainly not be long before he starts spending a little more time at home with his wife, Marilyn, and sons, Thomas and Michael.

When the day comes, Scudamore will not be lost to racing, for he has already invested heavily in his future. The 140 acres on which his Cotswold cottage stands are owned in partnership, by Scudamore and Nigel Twiston-Davies. They already house a training establishment of swelling reputation and rapid expansion. In years to come, Twiston-Davies

'Do not mistake the smile for contentment or complacency. The king may be on borrowed time, but he is not ready to abdicate yet'

may retain the licence but Scudamore's input will increase with availability.

Twiston-Davies was best man when Scudamore married in 1983, but they go back much further than that. They met as ten-year-olds, when the local pony club was held on the Twiston-Davies farm, next door to Scudamore's grandparents in rural Herefordshire. Later, Scudamore's first ride in a point-to-point was donated by his friend, "Nigel couldn't get there," he recalls with a grin, "and he could never get the ride back either."

There was an obsessiveness about Scudamore in his teens. Driven to follow his father, Michael, whose 500 winners as a jockey included the Gold Cup and Grand National, he defied all efforts to coax him into alternative employment and resented the caring selectivity of his parents, appreci-

ed now, over what he should and should not ride.

When he was 16, and his father refused to allow him to ride a disreputable animal in a point-to-point, he packed his bags and left home. He did not get far before Michael picked him up in his car but, as a declaration of intent, he had made his point. He was not to be deflected.

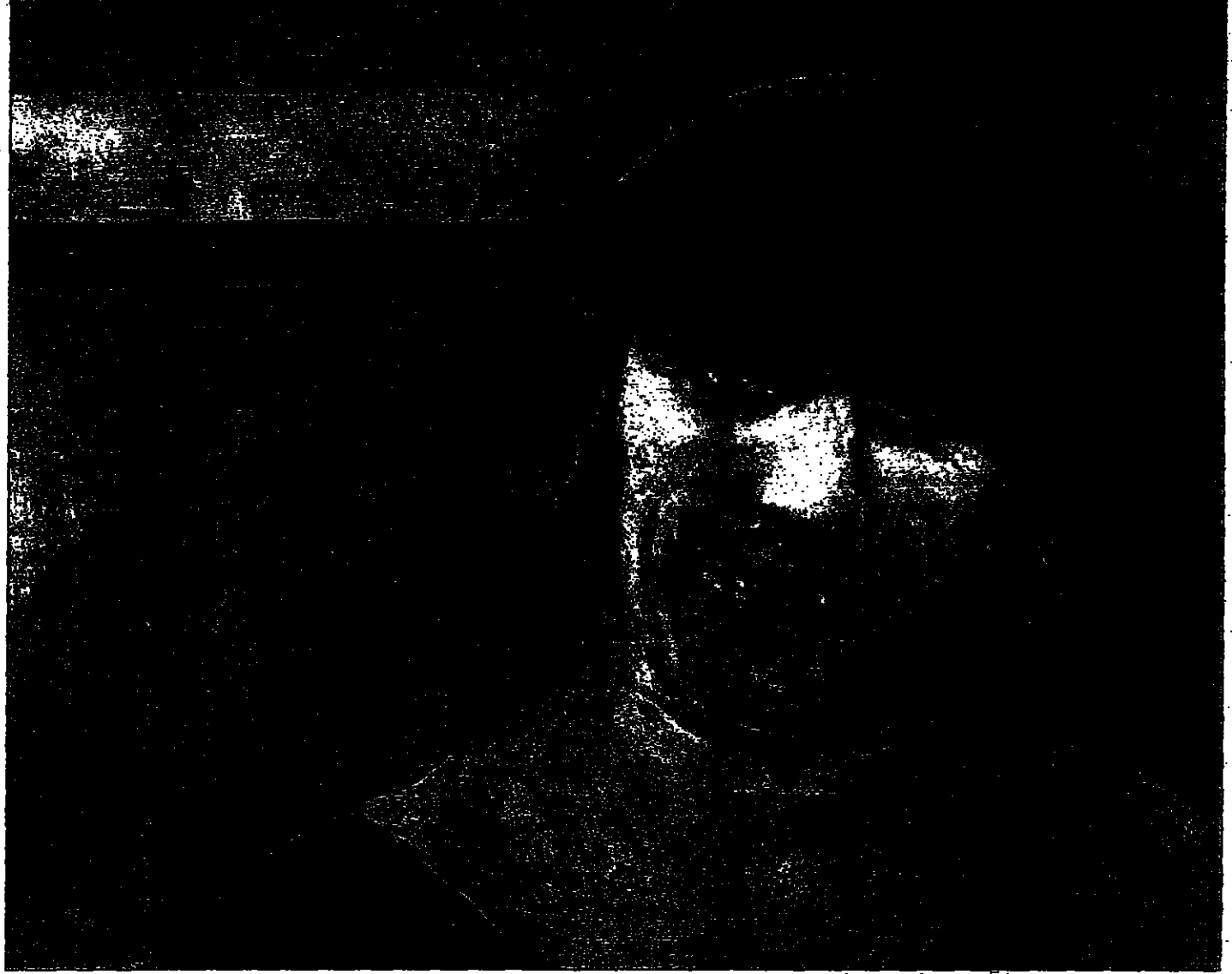
Mary, Peter's mother, was so nervous in his early riding years that it is said she would look herself in the rearview mirror during his races. Michael had gone through the motions of disavowal, even installing his son in an estate agent's office, but privately he always knew he would be a jockey and hoped for nothing else except, perhaps, that Peter could have ridden in his own cavalier times.

When Michael Scudamore was in his pomp, the jockeys' circuit embraced such Soho haunts as the Jermyn Street baths, Eileen's Bar and Wheeler's, and it was nothing unusual for a rider to arrive for racing in his dinner suit. "We used to live for today," he said. "Never mind tomorrow — that could take care of itself."

Peter enjoyed the tales of carousing but was always set on doing things his own way. His was a sober, intense dedication, so single-minded that some of his peers wondered if he was actually enjoying life at all. But enjoyment, to the young Scudamore, was the pursuit of perfection. And so it is today.

His new diet allows him the indulgence of a glass of wine at night without jeopardising his 10st minimum riding weight, and in the summer he will turn his competitive instincts to a field he has yet to fully conquer, the cricket pitch. But, once racing resumes, old habits die hard. Scudamore, 5ft 9in, is still restlessly ambitious and severely self-critical.

There have been a number of influences on the champion, aside from the enduring one of his father. Terry Biddelcombe, the tough, cheery former champion and a family friend, was one of the first. David Nicholson, who spotted in Scudamore that intangible gift of relaxing a horse in a race,



made him his stable jockey and, in 1982, helped make him joint champion, with Francome.

Fred Winter had been an influence only by legend until, in 1985, he chose Scudamore as Francome's successor at his Lambourn yard. And then, most profound of all, there is Martin Pipe, a trainer whose empire is based, as much as anything, on an extraordinarily close relationship with his like-minded jockey in which each

credits the other for furthering his career.

Scudamore recalls that the first horse he rode for Pipe kicked every hurdle out of the ground yet galloped on relentlessly to win. "He was the fittest horse I had ever sat on," he recalls. But he was to sit on many in similar condition.

It is no coincidence that Pipe's unconventional interval training method has now been adopted at the Naunton base of Twiston-

Davies. It is ironic, though, that, at Newbury today, as Scudamore attempts to win the Hennessy Gold Cup for the second consecutive year on Pipe's Chateau, one of the main dangers will be posed by a horse called Captain Dibble, trained literally in his back garden and part of the venture which constitutes his future.

Scudamore has no clash of loyalties. "I am still a jockey, chasing the glory. There is no

glory for me if Captain Dibble wins and I'm not on him," he says. "He may be part of my future but I am living very much for the present."

For the perfectionist jockey, only one horse really counts this afternoon, as he sets about dispensing the virtues who are already gathering to pick over the remains of a wonderful career. His message is clear. The king is far from dead.

BOXING

Eubank counting on an easy pay day against Giménez

By SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

CHRIS Eubank has often talked of giving up boxing for other work — studying psychology or becoming a do-gooding special envoy — but his skills would be better suited to business management.

He is the only boxer in the world to understand fully the business side of the sport. Boxing is about making money, and that is more important than having your head bashed in by taking on the best in the world.

He is clever at making money without taking risks. He picks opponents whose styles are ideally suited to his own and who will push him just far enough, but not beat him. Having made himself into something of a cult figure, he is now a bigger attraction than his contests.

The man who challenges Eubank today for the World Boxing Organisation's super-middleweight title, at the G-Mex Centre in Manchester, was not even in the qualifying top ten rankings when Eubank picked him. "I have

TALE OF THE TAPE

Eubank	Gimenez
Age	32
Weight	12st
Height	5ft 7in
Reach	6ft 1in
Style	Orthodox
Stance	Orthodox
Boxing since	1988
Wins	16
Losses	1
Draws	0
Knockouts	10
Defences	10

Eubank: 33 wins (18 inside the distance), no defeats.
Gimenez: 36 wins (21 inside the distance), 5 defeats, 3 draws.

been watching him for a long time," Eubank said. Perhaps Juan Carlos Gimenez a year ago, when the Paraguayan, as No. 1 contender, was dropped from the ratings, together with the No. 2, to make room for Eubank and Michael Watson, who decided they wanted to be super-middleweights and box for the title. Gimenez conveniently popped up in the top ten again last month, at No. 6.

Now 32, six years older than

Eubank, Gimenez is really a boxer of the Eighties, when he went the distance with middleweights like Juan Domingo Roldan and Roberto Duran, and beat Jorg Amparo, who went the distance with Nigel Benn. The common opponent of any significance is Jean Camara, of France. Eubank wiped out Camara in two rounds. Gimenez needed seven to stop him.

The challenger has never been stopped in 44 contests but he is unlikely to have enough to trouble Eubank. He does not look much bigger than a light-middleweight, and even his French connections say he is not in top shape. Eubank should not have to run this time, as he had to against Tony Thornton in Glasgow in September.

Eubank said he would do whatever he had to do to win. "You want to see do-or-die stuff," Eubank said. "But you can't be big-headed. I will adapt. I will run if it is tactically correct." Gimenez is durable and comes to fight, which means he is easy to hit. That will suit Eubank. He should have a field day.

SKIING

Tomba forms striking partnership

FROM DAVID POWELL IN SESTRIERE

ALBERTO Tomba shared a front-page banner headline with Marco van Basten in the Italian sports daily, *La Gazzetta dello Sport*, yesterday. The theme was that they should be equally compelling to watch this weekend.

It is a mark of Tomba's status in Italian sport that the same newspaper produced a front page with no trace of football for the first time in more than 50 years when, at the Winter Olympics last February, Tomba and his compatriot, Deborah Compagnoni, won gold on the same day.

And which other sportsman could lure thousands of spectators from Turin to the mountains on the very day that Juventus are at home to AC Milan? Juventus will be

trying to end the 44-match unbeaten run of van Basten and co tomorrow. But then Tomba probably has more chance of winning.

The new men's World Cup season starts here and Tomba should head the first table after two races this weekend, a giant slalom today and a slalom tomorrow. His record here is exceptional, winner of three slaloms and a giant slalom, and he expects to have one more of each shortly before kick-off tomorrow.

"This is my lucky place," Tomba said. Under new World Cup rules governing starting order, Tomba, as the competition's defending slalom and giant slalom champion, may opt for the advantage of going first. But he said: "I

will leave No. 1 to other skiers. I am going to win anyway." Conceit or kidology? Finn-Christian Jagge, the Norwegian who was second to Tomba in the slalom here last year, said: "Finishing second to Tomba is as good as a win." Jagge returns as Tomba's most likely challenger after Paul Accola, the overall World Cup champion from Switzerland.

Tomba's greatest wish now is to be overall champion for the first time but his chances are slim. Accola contests all four disciplines but Tomba competes only in giant slalom and slalom (15 of the 33 races), fearing for his safety in the speed races. A huge task, but, like van Basten, Tomba is seldom off target.

CRICKET: INDIA'S 19-YEAR-OLD BATSMAN BECOMES YOUNGEST TO 1,000 TEST RUNS

Tendulkar holds fort as older hands depart

FROM RICHARD STREETON
IN JOHANNESBURG

SACHIN Tendulkar, aged 19 years 222 days, became the youngest player to reach 1,000 runs in Test history yesterday as he single-handedly resisted when India collapsed against South Africa on the second day of the second Test match here.

Tendulkar finished 75 not out as India struggled to 128 for six in reply to South Africa's 292. The South African total represented a memorable recovery after their own initial setbacks. Later they again showed extraordinary resilience when their front-rank attack was reduced to three men after a dreadful accident to Pringle. Cronje filled the gap well with his occasional medium pace.

Pringle, trying to pull a short ball from Srinath, top-edged the ball into his face. It somehow struck his left eye between the helmet's peak and grill. Pringle was carried off on a stretcher and in hospital was found to have a fracture of the eye-socket. He should recover inside a week but will take no further part in this match.

Tendulkar, with several streaky shots through the slips, looked uneasy early on as Donald reached a frightening pace against him. Tendulkar was ten when one ball took the bat's edge as he tried to avoid playing a shot. It earned a four

as Matthews at third slip could not hold a sharp chance. Later, Tendulkar, playing his nineteenth Test, square-cut and drove with assurance. Shastri, trying to cover drive, and Jadeja, misjudging the line, fell to successive balls. Manjrekar edged a breakback into his stumps; Azharuddin snicked a catch to first slip. Amre was leg-before; and Prabhakar was caught behind.

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings	
S J Cook c More b Prabhakar	2
A C Hudson c Azharuddin b Prabhakar	8
K C Wessels c Azharuddin b Srinath	5
P N Kirsten bow b Prabhakar	0
J N Rhodes bow b Kumble	91
W J Cronje c and b Kapil	8
B M McMillan c Manjrekar b Srinath	98
T D J Richardson bow b Kumble	9
C R Matthews b Prabhakar	91
M W Pringle retired hurt	1
A Donald not out	14
Extras (lb 10, nb 9, w 4)	23
Total	292
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-11, 3-11, 4-38, 5-73, 6-158, 7-188, 8-251, 9-282.	
BOWLING: Kapil Dev 25-4-62-1; Prabhakar 26-8-63-4; Srinath 25-6-63-2; Kumble 26-8-60-2; Shastri 4-0-10-0.	

Border leads from the front

Brisbane: Allan Border, the Australian captain, held his side together on the opening day of the first Test with West Indies here yesterday before being run out for 73 five minutes before the close, when Australia were 259 for six.

Border, who started the match needing 348 runs to overhaul Sunil Gavaskar and become Test cricket's leading scorer, was beaten by a throw from Hooper to the wicket-keeper, Williams, after adding 72 runs for the sixth wicket with Greg Matthews.

Australia's top order batsmen had earlier struggled against pace and spin. Ambrose and Hooper both took two wickets while Ian Bishop claimed his first Test wicket for two years, largely spent recovering from a stress fracture in his back, when he had Mark Taylor caught behind.

Hooper could not have been expected to play such a prominent part with his off breaks so early in the match, on what appeared to be a perfect batting pitch. But he was forced into action when Walsh limped off with a strained left hamstring after getting through only five deliveries.

Rutherford strengthens New Zealand position

Colombo: New Zealand, put in to bat by Sri Lanka in the first Test match, struggled through 61 overs to reach 139 for four on a shortened opening day here.

A 52-run fifth-wicket partnership between Rutherford and Harris secured New Zealand towards a respectable total after the loss of their first four wickets for 87 runs.

Rutherford, who began cautiously but grew in confidence, overcame the fast-medium attack of Ramanayake and Liyanage before Sri Lanka resorted to their spin bowlers. Bad light intervened with almost 11 overs to go, after the start had been delayed by 75 minutes due to a wet outfield.

Rutherford was unbeaten on 46, scored in 110 minutes. He had hit one straight six off Anurasi, the left-arm spin bowler, and five fours. Harris, in his Test debut, defended stoutly for 84 minutes for 11.

The dismissal of Hardland in the fourth over justified Ramanayake's decision to send New Zealand in on a pitch which is expected to improve. Hardland edged a rising deliv-

er from Liyanage and de Silva, diving low to his right at first slip, held a good catch. In adding 65 runs in the afternoon session, New Zealand lost Wright and Crowe. Wright batted 90 minutes for 11 runs before attempting to fend a rising delivery from Ramanayake to be caught at third slip by Gurusinha. Crowe was brilliantly held at mid-wicket by Ramanayake as he pulled Warnaweera.

Jones, who had batted confidently, left soon after tea for 35 when an outside edge off Liyanage flew to Mahanama at second slip. (Reuters)

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings

B G Wright c Gurusinha b Ramanayake 11
B Hardland c de Silva b Liyanage 10
A H Jones c Mahanama b Liyanage 35
M D Crowe c Ramanayake 19
K Rutherford not out 46
C Harris not out 11
Extras (lb 1, nb 2, w 11) 14
Total (4 wickets) 139
J Vaughan, P Peters, M S/A, D Nash and M Owens to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-44, 3-77, 4-87.
BOWLING: Ramanayake 11-0-33-1; Liyanage 16-8-45-2; Mahanama 8-1-15-1; Warnaweera 13-1-4-19-1; Anurasi 16-4-32-0; de Silva 4-2-8-0.

SRI LANKA: First Innings

S A Jayawardene c Rutherford b Anurasi 11
P A de Silva c Harris b Rutherford 10
A H Muralitharan c Rutherford b Anurasi 10
D M Silva c Rutherford b Anurasi 10
S D Anurasi c Rutherford b Anurasi 10
Extras (lb 1, nb 2, w 11) 14
Total (4 wickets) 139
J Vaughan, P Peters, M S/A, D Nash and M Owens to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-44, 3-77, 4-87.
BOWLING: Ramanayake 11-0-33-1; Liyanage 16-8-45-2; Mahanama 8-1-15-1; Warnaweera 13-1-4-19-1; Anurasi 16-4-32-0; de Silva 4-2-8-0.

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S A Jayawardene c Rutherford b Anurasi 11
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A H Muralitharan c Rutherford b Anurasi 10
D M Silva c Rutherford b Anurasi 10
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BIG GAME HUNT

The Temptress and her chums

Page 13



WHAT TO WEAR

If the hat fits on the streets, wear it

Page 10



FOOD AND DRINK

Oodles of noodles: the new fast food

Page 5

ALAN COREN
IS SEEKING
ATTENTION
Page 15

WEEKEND

3

THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28 1992

Sex, power and the maestros

Norman Lebrecht
on conductors who
were legendary
performers in more
than one sense —
and their cooler
successors

He is the envy of every man, desired by every woman. At a flick of his wrist, a hundred musicians play in unison, as if magnetised. He can strike, or stroke, at will. "And since, during the performance, nothing is supposed to exist except this work," reflected the Nobel Laureate Elias Canetti, "the conductor for so long is ruler of the world." He is the master, the maestro, the monster that lurks just beneath the surface of a civilised subconscious.

His absolutism was coveted by Margaret Thatcher — "she envied me my position, where people always did what I requested", said Herbert von Karajan — and his gestures feebly imitated by Edward Heath. A corporate chief like Sony's Norio Ohga spends his nights studying to become a conductor.

Off-duty, the conductor figure remains irresistible. When Sir Georg Solti, at 80 years old, enters a room, his presence registers perceptibly on the antennae of every female. Women half his age fantasise about being trapped with Solti in a lift.

Sex is integral to conducting, whether in the explicit symbolism of that pointed, pointing baton, or in the extra-potential exploits of renowned conductors who were legendary performers in quite another sense. Sex, the supreme non-verbal communication, was commensurate in their minds with the way they made music.

Leonard Bernstein talked of "doing it" with his orchestras, and sometimes did. Kissing players of either sex flush upon the lips. Wilhelm Furtwängler, philosopher-king of the Berlin Philharmonic, advised that a conductor "should be aware of his attraction" to the opposite sex and, before concerts, trysted with female admirers in his green room. Otto Klemperer was assaulted in mid-opera by an outraged husband. One famous conductor dressed his soprano conquests in identical white mink coats. One of today's senior conductors has assured me that he will retire from the rostrum the day his virility wanes.

Sexual swagger helps a conductor to dominate an orchestra and mesmerise an audience. If conducting is presently in crisis, with too little talent around to fill the international calendar, part of the cause is rooted in the shrivelling sexual confidence of the modern conducting guild — the shrink-wrapped, safe-sex, scholarly-serious species that stare out from the covers of compact discs. Deflated in size from LPs and in strut from rapacious predecessors, the new-age conductor may provide a metaphor for the frightened nineties, but can be pretty useless at procuring a musical orgasm.

Conducting achieved its professional identity in a sexual dogfight and is now in danger of coming to an end in neutered sterility. It began 120-odd years ago in the painfully drawn-out choral consummation of *Tristan and Isolde*, whose composer, Richard Wagner,



"Iridescent bonhomie": Zubin Mehta, one of those who can still satisfy seekers after the old style, poses for his wife amid a colony of penguins on South Georgia during a visit to the Falklands

had sexually humiliated his conductor, Hans von Bülow, by seducing his wife, Cosima. Bülow accepted the relationship for three years but, when Cosima left him for Wagner in 1888, he felt doubly betrayed in heart and art. Dispossessed by a great composer and desperately needing to assert his masculinity, he promoted conducting to a full-time career and invented its right to invest music with subjective feeling, or "interpretation". When Bülow returned to the podium, his accounts of familiar works were coloured by personal prejudice and, on occasion, political propaganda.

Fragile, feeble and prone to nervous collapse, Bülow was no one's idea of a sex symbol, although he helped to establish the most robust of world orchestras in Berlin. His philharmonic successor, however, was eroticism personified. Arrur Nikisch, a diminutive Hungarian with manicured hands and gleaming white cuffs, stood almost motionless on the rostrum. The faintest twitch of his exceptionally elongated baton would elicit an explosion from the orchestra and ecstasy in the stalls.

He transfixed them, players and listeners alike, with the liquescence of his deep-set eyes, and, perhaps, with the suggestively pubic triangularity of his luxuriant moustache and goatee.

Adored by the ladies and irredeemably hedonist, Nikisch exhorted his disciples: "Let every performance be a grand improvisation!" He was the very paradigm of the professional conductor, the first to win world fame with orchestral tours and recordings, the fount from which Furtwängler and

Muti and Mehta, almost alone in their generation, have the capacity to excite and the chemistry to inspire

Arturo Toscanini drew their authority and aura.

Not every important conductor was so adventurous. Gustav Mahler and Richard Strauss never strayed beyond their wives' aprons and could be quite prudish. Herbert von Karajan and Leopold Stokowski were attracted more by the feminine ideal than the fleshly reality. Stokowski had an apparently platonic romance with Greta Garbo, while a lady pursued by Karajan in his forties told me that his ardour was unsullied by physical advances. Merely by assuring her that each concert was performed for her alone, he gave her a greater thrill than any she might have experienced from his touch.

Karajan generally contrived to stand aloof from the rest of humanity. He hated to be touched or embraced, was remote and humourless to his players and emulated Adolf Hitler in whipping up a mass following around an essentially frigid persona. He knew the value of sex, and could fake it in *Der Rosenkavalier* as well as anyone, but his mind was more on hygienic means of dominance —

the amassing of a media empire and a DM500 million fortune.

A similar, puzzling neutrality afflicts the performing make-up of Pierre Boulez, whose appointment as principal conductor of the New York Philharmonic was greeted in *The New York Times* with the headline "The Iceman Cometh". Boulez, a French composer of austere abstractions, emphasised the structural and cerebral qualities of the music he conducted at the expense of romantic warmth. No one ever left a Boulez concert in a transport of delight, nor has Boulez shown any inclination to carnal weakness. His motivation, like Karajan's, lay elsewhere: in the narrowing of musical consumption to a single file of intellectually approved scores.

Sexual temperatures in the podium were further cooled by the early-music revival, with its pallid, bookish conductors. Homosexual music directors found it socially necessary to conceal their proclivity and, with it, the passions that might enliven their performances. Women have yet to make a serious impact on the rostrum.

The decline in sexual charisma has reached a point where America's major orchestras are now headed by middle-Europeans of impeccable respectability — Kurt Masur in New York, Wolfgang Sawallisch in Philadelphia, Christoph von Dohnanyi in Cleveland, Daniel Barenboim in Chicago — exemplary musicians all, but not a dazzer among them.

Nor does the tiny generation of younger conductors offer much by way of hope. Even Simon Rattle, Britain's only world championship contender, has sometimes seemed

unduly keen to be politically correct in the eyes of Boulez and the authenticity lobby, with the result that his fantasies are frequently restrained and his performance inhibited. Rattle's image is not that of a wild man. He is a devoted son and concerned citizen, resident in a Birmingham suburb with a wife and two kids.

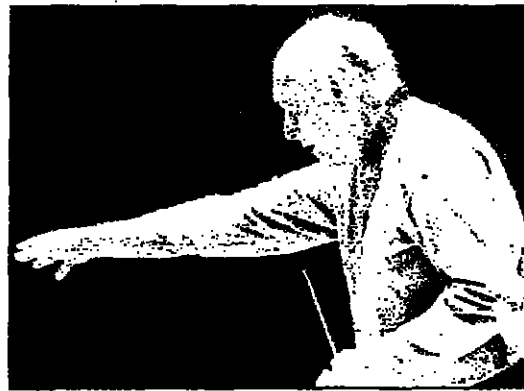
Seekers of the old Adam can still catch Solti thrusting away with relentless rhythms, Zubin Mehta flashing his iridescent bonhomie and Claudio Abbado his furtive charm. In Milan on Monday week, Riccardo Muti will open the La Scala season to a flutter of hearts and a swelling of national pride. Muti, at 51, combines musical

penetration with matinee-idol looks and the menace of a man who means to get his way, come what may. His image may be out of tune with contemporary fear and gloom, and the recklessness of some of his performances has affronted the accountants and caused pedants to fume. But Muti and Mehta, almost alone in their generation, have retained the capacity to excite and the chemistry to inspire. Its source remains to Muti an unfathomable mystery. "You give a gesture in the air," he once told me wonderingly, "and the sound comes out."

● Norman Lebrecht's conducting history, *The Maestro Myth*, was republished this month in paperback by Simon & Schuster (£8.99).



Baton charge: Herbert von Karajan (left) thrilled with his ardour; Sir Georg Solti fuels fantasies



Art is for everyone: hang on to your laundry

Just about anything can make a conceptual masterpiece

Journalists and estate agents are said to be the most despised professionals in the country. Next time Britons are polled, I expect artists will emerge for the first time near the top of the Unpopularity Charts. For what could be more calculated to enrage an average Briton in the midst of a recession than the £20,000 Turner Prize for art? In recent weeks many normally passive viewers have turned into Alf Garnetts, spluttering with indignation as they watched the front-runners for the prize explaining their work on television.

My husband is also an artist — in the original meaning of the word. He is a landscape painter but points out that the problems that beset a 20th-century Constable are legion and may well explain why so many of his contemporaries have abandoned easel painting for conceptual art.

"First, the countryside has

changed since Constable's time — if you can find a patch of countryside," he says. "For four months of the year the artist has the new problem of yellow oil-seed rape and, more recently, blue linseed." Staring at the yellow rape, he claims, "leaves a retinal image of the complementary colour blue which suffuses the optical field, making it impossible to work".

At other times, he says, prairies enriched with nitrogenous petroleum-based fertilisers pose further problems. The treated fields appear as an unnaturally vivid green, a colour almost impossible to achieve even when employing the technique of painting straight from the tube.

In summer, flies attach themselves to the viscous oil paint, while



**WEEKEND
voice
MARY
KILLEN**

ramblers look over his shoulder and say, "Are you winning?" or, worse, "Keep on persevering." And it's too cold to paint outside for eight months of the year. Painting from inside your car doesn't work, because the windscreen gets steamed up.

Small wonder so many artists turn to conceptual art or neo-Dadaism or do installations from

centrally heated studios. "It's much easier than painting," he says, "and no one can tell whether it's any good."

Other professionals have gruelling periods of training prior to qualification, but anyone can call himself an artist and this is one of the few professions where you can throw away the rule-book before you know the rules.

What's more, artists' materials are appallingly expensive, whereas the materials for conceptual art can be collected free from skips or your own laundry basket.

Another point is that a certain someone does not know how to sell himself — perhaps the key ingredient in these matters. When people come into our cottage and see paintings on the wall, they will sometimes say something like:

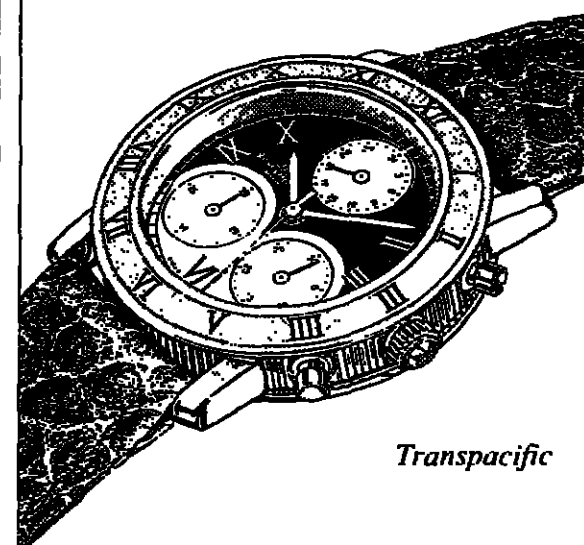
"Hey! I like this one very much. Is it for sale?"

This artist's mouth closes up like a Venus's fly-trap. "Oh, you like that one, do you?" he says, negatively. "Really? I'm surprised. I wasn't very pleased with it myself. I don't think this passage works very well (indicating a great swathe taking up most of the painting)."

"Still, if you're sure you like it, why don't I let you have it at a knock-down price?"

Yet there is one consolation. At least his tiny body of work will still be visible for future generations to admire or otherwise, whereas some 20th-century masterpieces made of denim, dead fish, asphalt or fat are already falling to pieces. The neo-Dadaist is indifferent to the future of his/her work in an attempt to destroy the notion of a collectable icon and to undermine the canonisation of the Art Object. "Well — I mean to say!" as Alf would have put it.

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scored 36 and Salim Malik took three wickets for 37.
SCORES: Pakistan 167 (44 T. overs); West Australia 166 (44 T. overs); Pakistan won by one run.

NOVEMBER
Bury

Counting

Milita

and the main

WHAT'S ON

THEATRE

LONDON

ANNIE GET YOUR GUN: Broadway star Kim Cattrall and John Dillinger star in what comes naturally in a revival of Irving Berlin's musical. The well-known classics include "Doin' What Comes Naturally" and "Anything You Can Do". Prince of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (071-839 5987). Tues-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, Sun, 3.30pm.

ASSASSIN: Sondheim's sharp and successful musical explores the impulse that drives no-hopes to kill American Presidents. Dominion Warehouse, Earlsdon Street, WC2 (071-867 1150). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, Sun, 3.30pm.



Bewildering: Maria Aitken, star of Coward's *Hay Fever*

Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3.30pm.

CAROUSEL: Michael Hayden in Nicholas Hyman's large-scale production of the Rodgers & Hammerstein fairground musical which ran for over a year in the '50s. National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-828 2252). Previews from Tues, 7.30pm; opens Dec 10, 7pm; then in rep.

CYRANO DE BERGERAC: Robert Lindsay in the title role as Rostand's long-nosed, long-distance lover. Directed by Elijah Moshinsky. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-839 8800). Previews from Tues, 7.30pm; opens Dec 14, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm.

GRACE: Anna Massey and James Laurence in new Doug Luce serious comedy. Shall an idyllic corner of England be sold to US Evangelists? Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (071-222 9224). Previews from Thurs, 8pm; opens Dec 9, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Sat, 4pm.

HAY FEVER: Maria Aitken and John Standing bewilder the weekend guests in Coward's excellent comedy. Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-867 1155). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats, Thurs, Sat, 3pm.

LOST IN YONKERS: Terrific performance by Rosemary Harris in a Neil Simon comedy more weighty than usual. Maureen Lipman gives good value as a loopy aunt. Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

MAKING IT BETTER: Lust, treachery and ambition revealed as an English couple harbour two Czechoslovakian spies. Jane Asher heads an excellent cast in James Saunders's play. Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (071-839 4488). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Tues, 3pm, Sat, 5.30pm. Last week.

STAGES: Haunting performance by Alan Bates as the washed-up artist in David Storey's elegy for lost times and places. Lindsay Anderson directs. National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Today 8pm and 8pm, Fri, 8pm; then in rep.

THE TEMPEST: Four performances only of Shakespeare's thrilling theatrical experience. A magical storm scene. Performed in Japanese. Barbican, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 8891). Thurs-Sat, 7.15pm (not next Sat, 2pm).

TRELAWNY OF THE "WELLS": Sarah Brightman and Michael Horden head a terrific cast in Pinner's engaging comedy about theatre folk in mid-Victorian London. Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (071-867-1045). Previews from Tues, 7.30pm; opens Dec 7, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm.

REGIONAL

GLASGOW: The Christmas show here is Myles Rudge's version of *The Jungle Book*, based on the King stories and directed by Giles Haverall. Citizens, Gorbals (041-429 0022). Previews from Tues, 2pm; opens Fri, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, variously at 10am, 2pm and 7pm.

MANCHESTER: Alan Garner's compelling *Elder*, a tale of a magic land just a twitch away from our own, brought to the stage, for seven years and upwards. Contact, Oxford Road (061-274-4400). Opens Fri, 7.30pm. Some performances sold out to schools but public perfs next Sat 2pm and 7.30pm, Dec 7 and 11, 7.30pm and daily from Dec 19.

SCARBOROUGH: Alan Ayckbourn's children's show, *My Very Own Story*, gives the hero not just one lookalike, but two; and they all tangle in each other's lives. Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round (0723 370541). Previews Wed, 1.30pm and 6pm; opens Thurs, 6pm; then in repertory with Charles Thomas's *Prince on a White Horse*.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: Richard Johnson and Clare Higgins star in Antony and Cleopatra, directed by John Caird (RSC). Mon-Wed, 7.30pm. Lust, murder and madness trap Cheryl Campbell and Malcolm Storry as the guilty pair in Middleton's *The Changeling* directed by Michael Attenborough (Gwan, Mon-Wed, 7.30pm). And Richard McCabe plays Marlowe in Peter Whelan's *The School of Night*, taking a fresh look at the mysterious deaths in a Deptford tavern (TOP, Mon-Wed, 7.30pm). Royal Shakespeare/The Swan/The Other Place (0789 295623).

FILM

BLADE RUNNER (15): The improved "director's cut" of Ridley Scott's influential vision of a dark, hellish LA, infested with rebel androids. Harrison Ford, Rutger Hauer. MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6279/379 7025). Screen on the Green (071-226 3520).

THE CRYING GAME (18): IRA gunman becomes obsessed with a hostage's girlfriend. Bold, powerful Neil Jordan film that falters at the close. Stars Stephen Rea, Forest Whitaker, Jaye Davidson, Miranda Richardson. Curzon Phoenix (071-240 9661) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527).

HUSBANDS AND WIVES (15): Woody Allen's best film in years, a lacerating tale of collapsing New York marriages. MGM Panton Street (071-930 0631) Mivema (071-235 4225) Odeon Mezzanine (0426 915683) Renoir (071-837 8402). Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772).

THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS (12): Romance and adventure in the American colonies with frontiersman Daniel Day-Lewis. Shallow version of the classic novel; director Michael Mann. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527) MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6279/379 7025) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

OF MICE AND MEN (PG): Steinbeck's classic Depression tale of friendship and innocence. John Malkovich as the slow-witted Lennie; director Gary Sinise as his protector. Simple and moving. Curzon West End (071-439 4805) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).



Fun on the ward: Eric Stoltz plays in *The Waterdance*

SINGLE WHITE FEMALE (18): New room-mate proves to be a crackpot. Bridget Fonda, Jennifer Jason Leigh; director Barbet Schroeder. Atmospheric if crude. MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) Leicester Square (0426 915683) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).



Leap frog: William Trevitt plays Jeremy Fisher in the ballet *Tales of Beatrix Potter*

SNEAKERS (12): Bright caper comedy with Robert Redford chasing lethal microchip. Phil Alden Robinson directs. Empire (071-487 9999) MGM Baker Street (071-435 9772) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

STRICTLY BALLROOM (PG): One dancer's fight to defy the rules. Intoxicating debut by director Baz Luhrmann. MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) West End (0426 915574) Renoir (071-837 8402). Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

TWIN PEAKS: FIRE WALK WITH ME (18): David Lynch's disquieting sequel to the cult television series, with Sheryl Lee. Camden Plaza (071-485 2443) Gate (071-727 4043) Lumière (071-836 0631) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148).

THE WATERDANCE (15): Trouble and fun in a male rehabilitation ward. Candid, humorous, keenly acted Eric Stoltz, William Forsythe, Wesley Snipes. Written by paraplegic Neal Jimenez, who directs with Michael Steinberg. MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Plaza (071-487 9999).

MUSIC

CLASSICAL

HUDDESFIELD CONTEMPORARY MUSIC FESTIVAL: Tonight Luciano Berio conducts the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Electric Phoenix and the New London Children's Choir in *Sinfonia*, probably his most popular composition; and the more recent *Ofantini*, a piece which develops a complex relationship between live performance and electronics (Huddersfield Town Hall, 7.30pm). Tomorrow, in this year's final festival concert, the London Sinfonietta under Diego Masson presents an appealingly wide-ranging programme that includes Simon Bainbridge's engaging *Concertante in Moto Perpetuo* and a new commission from Colin Matthews (St Paul's Hall, 7.30pm). The Sinfonietta's concert is repeated at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Tuesday at 8.45pm.

HUDDESFIELD CONTEMPORARY MUSIC FESTIVAL: Tourist Information Centre, Albion Street, Huddersfield (0484 430808). Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800).

TENDER IS THE NORTH: Tomorrow the Nordic festival celebrates "Sibelius day", with a rare concert performance of the composer's only opera, *The Maiden in the Tower* (St Giles Church, Cripplegate, 6pm; tickets from the Barbican box office, or at the door 30 minutes before the performance); there is also another instalment in the 150's Sibelius cycle under Sir Colin Davis (Barbican Hall, tomorrow, 7.30pm).

VIENNA PHILHARMONIC: James Levine, in his first London concert for some 15 years, conducts one of the world's indispensible great orchestras in a programme of Brahms, Schoenberg and Debussy. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), Wed 7.30pm.

OPERA

MADAMA BUTTERFLY: Nuri Epstein's 1987 Scottish Opera staging of *Madama Butterfly*, in which the modern fields of harmony taken to indicate the health of the whole art market, so this week's sales will be scrutinised closely. They begin with Old Master to contemporary prints at Phillips, Monday 10.30am and 2.30pm; and a session of more affordable modern art at Christie's South Kensington, Monday 2pm. The first major session of paintings is at Christie's King Street, Monday 7pm, where Cézanne's *Baigneurs* has an estimate of up to £3.5m. On Tuesday, 10am, Christie's South Kensington have second-hand Impressionist and modern works, while at 7pm Sotheby's offer their prizes, notably a Kandinsky estimated at around £5m. Wednesday has a secondary session at Sotheby's, and prints at Christie's, both 11am. Thursday and Friday see print sessions at Sotheby's, 10am and 2pm each day, and on Thursday Christie's have contemporary art, 2.30pm. Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-629 6602). Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (071-581 7611). Christie's, King Street, St James, London SW1 (071-839 9060). Sotheby's, New Bond Street W1 (071-493 8080).

ROCK

CAPERCAILLIE: More than any other, this band from the Western

Isles of Scotland has breathed new life into ancient Gaelic tunes. Arts Theatre, Belfast (0232 324936), Fri, 9pm.

THE BLACK CROWES: Though falling to live up to comparisons with the early Rolling Stones, these blues-based rock and rollers have a vibrancy all of their own. Britton Academy, London SW9 (071-256 1022), today and tomorrow, 6.30pm.

SHONEN KNIFE: This Japanese all-girl band have the sugary tunes and cutesy sparkle for classic pop collection. King Tuts, Glasgow (041-221 5275), today, 9pm. Venue, Edinburgh (031-557 3072), tomorrow, 8pm. Newcastle (091-261 4386), Mon, 7.30pm. University, Liverpool (051-794 4116), Tues, 7.30pm. Princess Charlotte, Leicester (0533 553956), Thurs, 8.30pm. Junction, Cambridge (0223 410366), Fri, 7pm.

THE SUNDAYS: After an absence of two years the sweet, soulful indie band are back with a haunting new album, *Blind Rivers*, Newcastle (091-261 4386), today, 7.30pm. Queen's Hall, Edinburgh (051-668 2019), tomorrow, 7.30pm. Queen's Hall, Bradford (0274 392712), Mon, 7.30pm. Wulfrum Hall, Wolverhampton (0902 312030), Wed, 7.30pm. University, Leicester (0533 556282), Thurs, 7.30pm. University, Hull (0482 466264), Fri, 7.30pm.

JAZZ

CHICO FREEMAN: The fluent Chicago-born saxophonist arrives for a week-long residency. Barbican Centre, London W1 (071-489 0747), Mon-Next Sat, 8.30pm.

LONNIE LISTON SMITH: Though he played with Roland Kirk and Art Blakey in the Sixties and Miles Davis in the Seventies, the pianist is still best known for his exciting explorations into fusion territory with his band Cosmic Echoes. Camden Centre, Biddborough Street, London WC1 (071-388 1394), Fri, 7.30pm.

DAVID SANBORN: Another fusion-fuelled player, this versatile saxophonist has turned his back on session work to explore more jazz-based compositions on his latest album, *Upfront*. Town and Country Club, London NW5 (071-284 0303), Tues, Wed, 7pm.

SALEEROOMS

MONDAY-FRIDAY: Success or failure in the Impressionists and modern fields is unfairly taken to indicate the health of the whole art market, so this week's sales will be scrutinised closely. They begin with Old Master to contemporary prints at Phillips, Monday 10.30am and 2.30pm; and a session of more affordable modern art at Christie's South Kensington, Monday 2pm. The first major session of paintings is at Christie's King Street, Monday 7pm, where Cézanne's *Baigneurs* has an estimate of up to £3.5m. On Tuesday, 10am, Christie's South Kensington have second-hand Impressionist and modern works, while at 7pm Sotheby's offer their prizes, notably a Kandinsky estimated at around £5m. Wednesday has a secondary session at Sotheby's, and prints at Christie's, both 11am. Thursday and Friday see print sessions at Sotheby's, 10am and 2pm each day, and on Thursday Christie's have contemporary art, 2.30pm. Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-629 6602). Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (071-581 7611). Christie's, King Street, St James, London SW1 (071-839 9060). Sotheby's, New Bond Street W1 (071-493 8080).

EXHIBITIONS

SAMSUNG GALLERY OF KOREAN ART: The latest addition to the V&A's facilities is an imposing new gallery, sponsored by the Korean electronics company Samsung and providing a fitting showcase for the museum's extensive collection of Korean artefacts. This amounts now to more than 600 pieces, beginning in the fifth century and recently augmented by purchases of contemporary Korean art, including a work by Lee Manbong. Victoria & Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (071-589 6371), Mon-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun, 2.30-5.50pm. Samsung Gallery opens Dec 2.

BEARDSLEY TO BOMBERS: A further tangle through the permanent collection of the Tate has brought to the surface a remarkable group of rarely shown works on paper from the period 1870-1920, or the beginnings of the Aesthetic Movement to the first heyday of Modernism in Britain. Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (071-821 1313), Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2-6pm, until Feb 14.

EUROPEANS IN CARICATURE: The British Museum has nearly 20,000 caricatures, mostly hand-coloured etchings, from the great age of caricature, 1770-1830. To reflect the less solemn side of the 92 prime examples have been chosen showing how nations saw each other. British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (071-636 1959), Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30-6pm, until Jan 24.

SICKERT: Though the artist's early Impressionist works have retained their lofty status, they have been increasingly joined of late by the once-despised work of his old age, based frequently on newspaper photographs or images from pop culture of the day. This large show gives ample opportunity to see both sides. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1 (071-439 7438), Daily 10am-6pm, until Feb 14.

THE TURN OF THE SCREW: Britten's opera, based on Henry James's chilling novel, returns to the English National Opera repertoire. Jonathan Miller's production is revived by David Ritch, with Valerie Masterson as the Governess and Philip Langridge as Peter Quint (following his triumphant *Phantom of the Opera*). Coliseum, Covent Garden, WC2 (071-496 3161), Jan 25, 27, 30, Feb 2, 5.

THE GAME OF LOVE AND CHANCE: Marivaux's classic comedy is presented in a production by Cambridge Theatre Company and Gloria, newly adapted by Neil Bartlett who also co-directs with Mike Alfreds. Magpie Stage plays the embattled heroine Silvia and Marcello Magni plays Harlequin. The production is currently on tour and will reach the National early next year. Arts Theatre, Cambridge (0223 352000), Nov 30-Dec 5. Festival Theatre, Middlesbrough (0684 892277), Dec 7-12. National (Cottesloe), London, SE1 (071-928 2252), previews from Jan 6; opens Jan 11.

TALES OF BEATRIX POTTER: Hunca Munca, Peter Rabbit and Squirrel Nutkin take to the Covent Garden stage as Frederick Ashton's 1971 ballet film is adapted for live performance. The original designer Christine Edzard and mask-maker Rostislav Doboujinsky are recreating their sets, costumes and masks for the production, the highlight of the company's Christmas season. *The Tales of Beatrix Potter* is being presented on a double-bill with *The Dream*, Ashton's delightful distillation of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-340 1066), Fri, next Sat, 7.30pm.

LONDON CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE: For the second week of its Sadler's Wells season, LCDT is presenting three works new to London this season by three choreographers who have never worked with the company before. The Frankfurt-based Annette Mielke contributes *My Father's Venice*, while fellow American Mark Morris sets his lyrical, playful *Mozart* to music by Saint-Saëns. Early in the week the popular and energetic *Kidul* is on offer but the biggest draw on Friday and next Saturday is the *Rockstar*, a ballet created by Christopher Bruce using a soundtrack of Rolling Stones songs. Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916), Tues-next Sat, 7.30pm, next Sat, 2.30pm.

VIDEO

CHRIST STOPPED AT EBOLI: (Artistic Film, PG). Francesco Rosi's lyrical, moving account of Italian writer Carlo Levi's political exile in a primitive mountain village. With Gian Maria Volontè. 1979.

1900 Fox Video, 18, two tapes: Bertolucci's wayward attempt to capture some 50 years of Italian history through the experiences of antebellum Robert De Niro and earthy peasant Gérard Depardieu. Structurally flawed, often facile, but set pieces glitter. 1977.



Aiello's Ruby: the shadowy figure comes to life on film

RUBY (20/20 Vision, 15): Danny Aiello as the small-time gangster who shot Lee Harvey Oswald. A tame film compared to JFK, but characters are given room to breathe, and Aiello brings the shadowy Ruby to tantalising life. Director, John Mackenzie. 1992.

WAYNE'S WORLD (CC, PG): Suburban teenagers (from America's *Saturday Night Live*) tangle with big-time television. Feels, silly and hugely popular: a cultural artefact fit for a time capsule. Penelope Spheeris directs. 1992.

BOOKINGS

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Worldly wise about wine after a Bordeaux trip

Visitors to Bordeaux might miss the wine but

Robin Young is left in no doubt when he visits

Baron Philippe de Rothschild's headquarters

IN the world of wine there is no more famous name than Bordeaux: in Bordeaux no more famous name than that of Baron Philippe de Rothschild.

The Baron himself, sadly, died in 1988: his name lives on in the extraordinary company he built up in the course of more than six decades of dedicated commitment to wine, and his spirit in the quality of the products which that company markets and distributes.

The most famous of those products, of course, is the fabulous claret: Château Mouton-Rothschild, the only wine for which the 1855 classification of the wines of the Médoc has ever been disturbed.

In 1855, when the wines of Bordeaux's prime red wine production area were ranked in order of merit, only four wines were ranked as *premier cru*: Mouton-Rothschild, a wine which in the best vintages achieves total perfection, was only

placed as "the first of the second growths", a position its proprietors haughtily refused to accept.

From the day he took charge in 1922, Baron Philippe campaigned indefatigably to have what he regarded as an injustice rectified, and after fifty years of effort, despite all the obstacles and petty jealousies, he triumphed. In 1973 Château Mouton-Rothschild was officially reclassified and proclaimed at last as a *premier cru classé*.

Yet was that unique triumph the Baron's greatest accomplishment? Certainly it was only one among many, as visitors to Bordeaux and to the headquarters of Baron Philippe de Rothschild in the village of Pauillac, source of the most powerful and wondrous clarets, will discover.

After only two years in charge at Mouton, Baron Philippe became the first Bordeaux proprietor to insist on château-bottling, a decision progressively followed by other leading



Choosing wine: a selection from Baron Philippe de Rothschild

growers in Bordeaux and other regions until now the term "mise en bouteille au château" has become a *sine qua non* of quality assurance for really fine wines.

Then it was Baron Philippe who hit upon the idea of commissioning an original illustration for a distinguished artist for each year's label. The originals, by artists like Coteau, Braque, Picasso, Salvador Dali, Henry Moore and Andy Warhol may be seen in the Museum at Mouton,

which have since become staples on all the world's restaurant wine lists.

More recently Mouton Cadet had been joined by a sextet of generic wines under the Baron Philippe label from appellations higher in Bordeaux's hierarchy of wine classification: Médoc, St Emilion, Pauillac, Pomerol, Graves and Sauternes, all stored, aged and bottled at one of the most modern cellars in Europe on the outskirts of Pauillac.

Baron Philippe de Rothschild's company, now run by his ebullient daughter Philippine, an actress, has two other classified growths in Pauillac: the fifth-growth Clerc Milon, bought in 1970, sits between Mouton and its great rival, Lafite, while Château d'Armailhac, purchased in 1933, was formerly known as Château Mouton-Baronne Philippe in tribute to the late Baron's wife.

Travellers who visit Bordeaux might miss, in the city's busy streets, the fact that they are lucky enough to be in the world's capital of wine. Those who go through the gently undulating vineyards to Pauillac and the headquarters of Baron Philippe de Rothschild will not be in any doubt.

Vintage Bordeaux wines selected for The Times

THIS Christmas, enjoy the pleasures of *The Times* selection of vintage Bordeaux wines from the wine makers of Baron Philippe de Rothschild and receive a complimentary cellar book in which to record your tasting experiences.

The Times and Baron Philippe de Rothschild have selected two different cases of Bordeaux wines for your enjoyment. The cases include a selection of wines not widely distributed and offer a well-chosen range of wines appealing to wine buffs and social sippers.

Case I
Baron Philippe generic wine case (£84.00). A mixed case of the most popular appellation contrôlée Bordeaux wines consisting:

Four bottles Médoc Baron Philippe de Rothschild 1985
Four bottles St Emilion Baron Philippe de Rothschild 1988
Two bottles Graves Baron Philippe de Rothschild 1990
Two bottles Sauternes Baron Philippe de Rothschild 1990

Burying my own treasure, and unearthing it elsewhere

Never in the brief history of the sparrow has that vital tool seen busier times. I doubt there is a single farmer hereabouts who has not pulled out his double-ended friend and slackened the bolts on the plough to enable it to dig a little deeper. The reason is that cache of buried Roman treasure unearthed by a fortunate metal-detecting enthusiast just beneath the surface of a field not far from here. I felt very optimistic, being at somewhat of an advantage over my neighbours: they are required to plough from the elevated seat of their tractors, while I trudge the furrows behind horses, and see more of the earth than they do.

But no luck so far. Quite the reverse. I seem to add regularly to the earth's stock of buried goodies. On the near-side handle of the plough is a slot into which the vital sparrow fits, but it was for a

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

wider sparrow than the one I use, and so it does not take much of a bump to bounce it out of its home. As soon as it happens I call "Whoosh!" to the horses, but it takes a couple of yards for them to come to a halt. By then the sparrow is ploughed under, and no turning of the furrows with my bare hands will unearth it. I hate to think how many tools I have lost that way. Probably in centuries to come archaeologists will mark down our farm as the site of an ancient sparrow factory.

But I have been ploughing other furrows this week, and have unearthed another treasure. It was accidentally dropped by Norman Lamont in his autumn budget statement, is worth millions and



has gone almost entirely unreported. The jewel in question reads like this: "An agri-environment programme was also agreed ... £30 million ... [to include] a new scheme to encourage organic farming." Very few words, well hidden, but for those who believe in natural and sustainable farming it is better news than the entire treasure of the Roman Empire. At long last there is official recognition of a method of farming which has been more accustomed to having cold water poured on it by smug agrochemical barons and ignorant politicians alike. It must be thrilling for those who have campaigned for years, suffered ridicule and risked their livelihoods for the simple belief that organic farming is better



farming. Now, at last, they find the good guys are on the winning side. Even better to find that the members of the National Trust are leaning in the organic direction, too. The trust is the largest private land-

owner in the country (570,000 acres), and voted two-to-one recently to compensate its tenant farmers for any financial losses during the less productive period of conversion from intensive to organic farming.

It seemed that overnight the organic movement's dream had come true.

But this is where our ploughing hit a rough patch. For although the members of the trust want their farms to be organic, the ruling council appears not to agree. It speaks of "no evidence" and "not possible for all farms". These, of course, are now yesterday's ramblings: herbage arguments. Perhaps the trust should pop them on a tea-towel instead of trotting them out in real life. The organic movement has rolled forwards and left them standing.

But the National Trust is not the only body earning a niche in the organic hall of fame. Why don't the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Council for the Protection of Rural England, English Nature and all the other nature-protection bodies declare themselves in favour of organic

farming? After all, it is the one thing that would advance all their aims. A thousand acres taken out of chemically intensive growing and converted to an environmentally kinder method of farming has to be better for wildlife. More immediately effective, perhaps, than a nationwide mail-shot inviting us to buy robin-embellished tea-towels which raise money to support officials who keep saying: "There is no evidence..." There is. They should ask the robins.

Perhaps it is time for members of these influential bodies to do a little ploughing of their own. When they send in Christmas orders for the Sissinghurst Soap or the Monogrammed Heritage Luggage-Strap, they should attach a note — fixed to the cheque so they can't bin it — asking whether the organisation supports organic farming. And if not, why not? It is called throwing a sparrow in the works.

Feather report

Counting crows

ON A normal country walk in England, you can expect to see five out of our seven native crows. The two with the most dramatic plumage are magpies and jays. Magpies have become very common in recent years — in London, they were practically unknown before the war, yet now you see them wherever there is a scrap of park.

They have also become an object of hatred with some people, who suspect them of eating all the small birds living round them. In fact they mainly pick up vegetable matter and insects in the winter, regurgitating them and hiding them in holes in the ground. Even their attacks on eggs and nestlings in the spring have had no serious effect on the small bird population.

They like to sit high in a treetop, flicking their long tails. It is such a characteristic movement that sometimes if you look up at a tree you can detect the movement before you see the bird, like the Cheshire Cat's grin. They make a loud chatter, a note like an oar creaking in a rowlock.

Jays are heard before they are seen. Their raucous screeches are audible far away, and even when you get close you often see no more than a white rump slipping away between the rhododendrons. Sometimes, though, they sit quietly, allowing a good view, and you realise how beautiful they are: mostly pink, with wings of black, blue and white, a black moustache and a black tail. The turquoise blue on their wings seems quite a small patch when they are perched, but from above the whole wing looks electric blue.

Carion crows are common in town and country alike. They are completely black, although in Ireland and in Scotland west of a line from Glasgow to Aberdeen they are replaced by another race of crow, the hooded crows, which are grey on the back and beneath. Along that borderline the two interbreed. In autumn, a few hooded crows also come in across the North Sea and winter along the east coast.

"How do you distinguish them from rooks?" people often ask. Sometimes it is difficult, but in fact there are several clear differences. The rook's cawing is higher-pitched than the crow's, and altogether bristlier and more conversational — as befits a bird that is generally found in flocks. The beak is narrower and sharper. Above all, a bare patch at the base of the beak which looks white at a distance is unmistakable evidence of a rook.

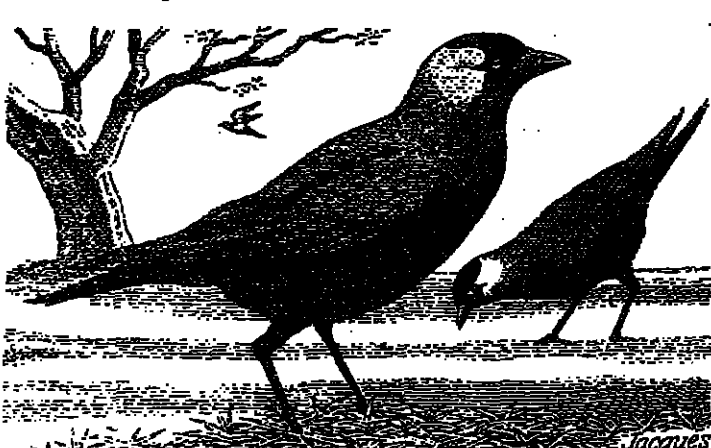
ROOKS gather to roost in enormous numbers, wheeling and diving for a long time at dusk above the wood they have chosen. But by Christmas they are spending the days sitting round their nests in the rookeries again, and by February breeding has begun.

Jackdaws often feed with the rooks in the fields. They are small, strutting birds, mostly black, with a grey nape and a very pale, beaky-looking eye. Whereas the rooks dig into the earth for food, the jackdaws pick flies and other morsels off the surface. They too are great acrobats in the air.

That leaves the two crows of the solitudes: the raven and the chough. When the mountains are covered with snow, only climbers will see more of the ravens than a few tiny black shapes wheeling high over a cliff-top. In summer, you may get closer, and take in their imposing size and blackness. As for the choughs, there are probably no more than 3,000 of them on the Atlantic sea-cliffs in Ireland and North Wales: relics of a once-substantial British population, as black as the other crows, but unmistakable as they run around on their red legs and peck at the turf with their curved red beaks.

DERWENT MAY

● What's about: Birds — look out for woodcock in undisturbed woodland. Twitchees — ring-billed gull at Rockingham recreation ground, Uxbridge, west London; spotted sandpiper at Highbridge, Somerset. Details from Birdline, 0898 700222.



Acrobats: jackdaws pick flies and other morsels off the surface



Who will buy? As the recession bites deeper, more and more people are turning to auctions to haggle for a bargain at just a few pounds — or even pence

Fast bidding for the household scraps

Jody Tresidder is amazed by the passions aroused at a weekly auction of frozen chickens, lampshades and pyjamas

Y ou should never underestimate the British appetite for a bargain. Portley Hill is the proof. From the outside it looks exactly like what it once was: a most uninviting council refuse depot, a bleak, breeze-blocked blot on the landscape which squats in a lonely spot on the edge of the Cambridgeshire fens. A pitied gravel car-park does not add allure.

Yet once a week for at least 51 weeks a year, from nine in the morning the Portley Hill depot at Littleport, near Ely, is a mecca for hundreds of ruthlessly competitive shoppers. This is where they faithfully trek, often from miles away, to save money. Nobody brings a shopping list. There isn't any point. Inside, the depot is cavernous. A cold and cluttered. Goods are piled drunkenly on clean trestle tables, heaped against walls, or stacked on the concrete floor.

By 9.30 the rutted car-park is full to bursting. By 10am it is easy to tell the experienced shoppers: small, silent, cigar-sucking men and jolly matrons rustling with outsize carrier bags and clanking with small change. They share an air of studied indifference, as if they were only here for a polystyrene cup of tea and a chat. Don't be fooled.

At 10.29, a hush descends. At 10.30 precisely, chartered surveyor Bill E. Pepper, from the long-established East Anglian auctioneering and land agency firm of Cheffins, Grain and Comins, embarking on what he calls "the absolutely fun bit of my job", leaps on to a modest wooden podium and starts selling.

"And how much," he demands of the rapt crowd, "am I bid for Lot One, this 2lb bag of tomatoes?" This is the small, but thriving, world of the weekly country auction. As the forerunner of the ubiquitous car-boot sale and a direct descendant of the traditional but endangered county town market, it is a boom business in the middle of — and undeniably in response to — the recession.

Anyone can bring virtually anything to sell, and they do. C&C takes at most 20 per cent commission. With a minimum of fuss and only local advertising, these auctions shift scores of chickens, bicycles, spanner sets, new pyjamas, old wardrobes, cabbage plants, crockery, children's car seats, tomatoes, dahlias, dead 1970s lampshades, fresh eggs, plants of wood ... all at absurdly low prices.

"Townies", who might once have regarded such events as a rustic morning out among the quaint rural folk, are now relying on them to balance tightly squeezed budgets. Nigel Graham, from Saffron Walden in Essex, was made redun-

dant from his sales job seven months ago. "That's why we're here," he says simply. "Times are hard, and if you're careful you can make a hell of a saving. My wife Joelle and I can buy fruit and vegetables we might otherwise not afford. And it is much more exciting than going to the shops. Your heart really starts hammering when you open the bidding."

Auction shopping, it is true, is instantly addictive. Outbid your neighbour by a craftily judged 20 pence to secure a 6lb chicken for £2 — as I did — and you know plucking frozen thighs from the supermarket freezer will never be the same again.

I almost wept when a child's rusty but reclaimable racing bike went — in a flash — for £3.50 to a gimlet-eyed grandmother in a floral smock. You hesitate here at your peril.

The man standing next to me, a healthy six-footer in a lumberjack shirt who had just bought seven 14lb turkeys for around £6 a piece, was, I assumed, a restaurateur — or perhaps a B & B landlord? "No," sighed Stephen Warby, from the Cambridgeshire village of Christchurch. "Just a father of four. This is to fill up the freezer. At 42p to 45p a lb," he added, "you're laughing." As he snatched up an eighth neatly bagged carcass for his pile, one could only hope his children had a taste for the stuff.

With lots dispatched at a rate of roughly one every ten seconds, the

depot is stripped bare by noon. Someone has even bought the box of horrid lampshades.

Tommy Housden, who at 81 is one of the longest serving auction porters in the country (he started in 1936), holds up the last remaining bunches of dahlias and ventures the opinion that "it's all got a lot more commercial these days".

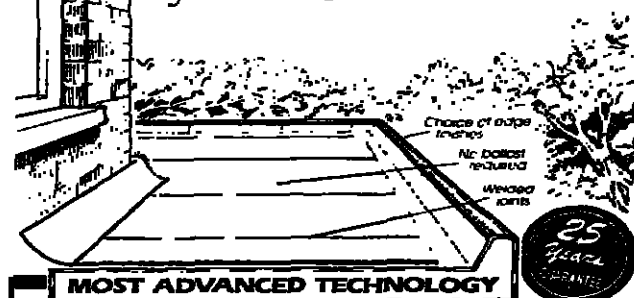
"True," says auctioneer Bill Pepper. "We now get the dealers buying up the car-boot sales here. But the hard core of regulars come for a gossip, a bag of chips and a bargain. You'd be surprised how aggressively people can argue over a fivepence bid."

● Cheffins, Grain and Comins hold auctions at the Portley Hill depot, Ely Road, Littleport, Cambridgeshire every Thursday. Further details, 0353 662266.

● The 1992 edition of Town and Country Auctions by Eric Geen (AA publications, £4.99) gives full details of more than 300 auctions around Britain.

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Military manoeuvres for nature lovers

One of the army's best-kept secrets — the beauty of Salisbury Plain — can be enjoyed with caution and a good map

For half a century the army's vast Imber Range on Salisbury Plain has been closed to the public, and more than 16,000 acres of magnificent countryside lost to walkers and nature-lovers. Imber has become a secret place — unless you know where to look.

Imber is one of the last great undeveloped areas in southern England, where it is still possible to explore and to feel lost and lonely in the great rolling downs that spread like oceans to either side. And, despite the restrictions, there are ways to penetrate the secrets of this often desolate place. For a few days each year — from December 18 to January 4, and on selected bank holidays throughout the year — the roads that cross the plain and pass through the deserted village of Imber are opened to the public, although even on these rare days access is confined to the metalled roads.

The Imber Range is a region of poachers and gunfire: of army tanks and abundant wildlife; of descending paratroopers in their hundreds, and butterflies so numerous the visitor is seldom out of sight of several at any one time. There is plenty to see, even on days when the army is knocking seven balls out of the landscape.

Finding the half-hidden paths that lead to the plain is the problem, and a good map is

essential (especially Pathfinder maps 1200, 1220 and 1221) if you are to thread your way through the labyrinth of signs and warnings. Once found, these tiny roads can lead you to vantage points and to the 20-mile long perimeter path that circles the range. The path's frequent high points offer breathtaking panoramic views taking in most of the restricted area.

In fact you can, with care, see the Imber Range at almost any time without ever setting foot on the forbidden bits. But the army does not make the task easy. Strident notices of gunfire and explosives

are set up everywhere warning of what not to do. None explains in simple terms what the explorer can, and is legally permitted to, enjoy. Only tiny finger signs point out the path-ways, and these often appear to conflict with the danger notices. A couple of miles outside Westbury on the A350, at the village of Upton Scudamore, is a narrow turning on the left signposted to Halfway House Farm. This lane leads a few hundred yards to a stile marked Imber Range Footpath. Right alongside the stile and its tiny footpath sign, a large yellow and

red poster states: "Danger. This is a live firing area and is closed to the public. Keep out." The natural reaction is to stay in the lane and give the barely visible footpath a miss. In fact, the sign refers to the land behind the notice, not to the footpath alongside. This applies wherever these notices occur.

Several starting places can be reached by car. One of the best is Bratton camp, an Iron-Age hill fort just above the White Horse that dominates both the village of Bratton and the nearby town of Westbury. From here, the views across Wiltshire and Somerset are

stunning. The path leads off alongside a giant chalk quarry and follows the western edge of the plain to Warminster and Cradle Hill, famous for UFO sightings and crop circles.

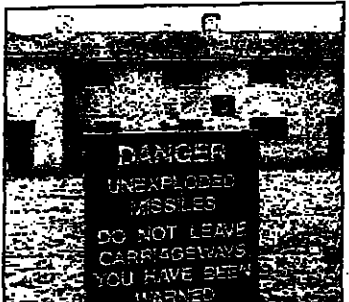
Two more giant hills, Battlesbury and Scratchbury, are skirted. The path here is in places narrow and steep on its way to the isolated village of Chisney.

The next leg to Tilshead village, with a welcome pub and some shops, can be done either along the more recently cut C22 road or by means of the original path past the army's German village training ground. This is the most isolated and open area of the plain.

For those who cannot manage the whole 20 miles, the hike can easily be split into much more manageable sections. Make sure at all times to stick to the made-up roads. Never set out across open country, even on the few open days.

CANDY AND DENNIS ATHERTON

● Tourist information centres at Warminster (central car-park, 01985 218548) and Westbury (The Library, Edward St, 0373 827158) carry comprehensive lists of campsites, bed and breakfast, hotel, self-catering and local farmhouse accommodation. They often also have maps and guides to the area. Car-parks are detailed on the Imber Range Perimeter Path map (available from tourist information centres).



Welcome to Imber: army warning notices deter walkers from enjoying the breathtaking landscape



مكتبة الأمل

scored 36 and Salim Malik took three wickets for 37.

SCORES: Pakistan 167 (44.1 overs); West Australia 166 for 6 (45 overs); Pakistan won by one run.

Ooodles of noodles

You don't need an expense account to eat Japanese, says Barbara McSweeney

A man who loves tuna for lunch opened a take-away kiosk in Piccadilly Tube station to spread the cost of buying it fresh from Billingsgate fish market. Six months on, Mr Masaki Ko is doing brisk trade. He sells plastic boxes full of brightly coloured rice and raw fish and plans to challenge McDonald's as a culinary superpower. The food is inexpensive and fun.

Mr Ko is one of a growing band of Japanese entrepreneurs newly catering to the hard-up. The good old eighties, when we all ate too much and paid too much, are gone. Even Japanese expense accounts have been slashed.

There are more than 70 Japanese restaurants in Britain, serving tempura (chunks of food fried in batter), teriyaki (roasts), sashimi (slices of raw fish), shabu-shabu (like a fondue but using boiling water instead of cheese), and puddings such as green-tea ice-cream. Virtually all are in London, where almost half the 48,203 Japanese registered with the embassy live.

In addition to the sushi bars, there are other specialised haunts, such as noodle shops. These include the popular and inexpensive Wagamama in Streatham Street, central London.

Open since April, this looks like an upmarket canteen, with rows of wooden tables and a bright, white, spotlessly clean look about it. The look says: we care about the environment, about food, about you. This appeals greatly to the students and young trendy types who pack it out.

Wagamama's management says Japanese restaurateurs have ignored the natives in favour of Japanese businessmen on expense accounts.

They favour low prices, high turnover and a mass market. Straightforward and unpretentious, Wagamama looks the sort of place in which its customers regularly eat.

On the other hand, the traditional ramen, or Chinese-style noodle bar — the Japa-



Full of eastern promise: Wagamama is bright, clean and cheap, making it a popular place for everyday eating

nese answer to the fish and chip shop — accommodates a dozen people sitting up at the counter and slurping. Wagamama may not be entirely authentic — it uses chicken instead of pork because it is healthier — but at least the British want to eat there. Cultural adaptation also means the cuisine develops. As Chinatown shows, it is easy for expatriate cooking to become fixed in aspic.

Besides, you can't recreate Japanese restaurants exactly, says Naritoko Matsunaga, the manager of Kamon in Shaftesbury Avenue, which sells a little bit of everything at modest prices. British restaurants don't have tatami floors to make them homely, or paper windowpanes.

Nor does Kamon alter its menu to suit the seasons, as some restaurants in Japan do, because, says Mr Matsunaga, you hardly see them change here. You are also unlikely to find fugu or blowfish on many menus. The blowfish liver contains a poison causing instant death, and only a licensed chef can prepare it.

As well as the Japanese themselves, leading supermarkets are beginning to cash in. Marks & Spencer plans to introduce salmon teriyaki later this year. Sainsbury's already imports 15 products, including green tea, seaweed and soups, for home-made factory workers.

Many chefs in Britain have been influenced by Japanese cuisine. The look of nouvelle cuisine was strongly inspired by Japanese dishes, and tastes and techniques have also made their mark.

Raymond Blanc of Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons says: "Take my gelée of salmon and caviar, for instance. The courgettes are marinated in sweet vinegar. And the salmon is raw. I don't tell my customers that. It's a secret."

He loves the lightness, the texture and the taste — "It needs the purest and most noble ingredients" — and believes Japanese food will eventually take off here, as it has in America, because it is so healthy. "There is bouillon, lots of raw fish, lots of carbohydrates such as rice, and hardly any sauce, just a tiny bit of

mustard or purée of bean."

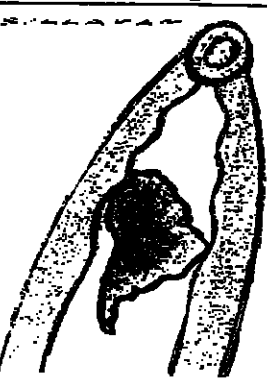
The Coronary Prevention Group would like people to adopt a Japanese-style diet of fish, vegetables and rice, though without the salt, which makes a stroke more likely.

We cannot really say Japanese food has arrived until cooks at home throughout the country are rolling up rice in

seaweed or battering the odd prawn. Still, a few years ago Chinese cooking was considered as inscrutable as its chefs. Now everyone has a rusty wok. Japanese food would be a boon to the tired worker. For provided you avoid the intricate, highly elaborate haute cuisine dishes, delicious recipes could hardly be simpler.

FOOD SPY

Annie Rankin shells out for nuts, one of the world's staples



THE nut — the name for any seed or fruit consisting of a soft, edible kernel and a tough, woody shell — is hard to classify. I have found it defined as a fat and as a protein; on the Continent it is categorised as dried fruit. But there is no disputing that nuts are a rich source of vegetable protein.

A nutritional survey of 34,000 Americans published this year shows that those who ate a handful of nuts five times a week halved the risk of heart attacks, compared with those who ate them once a week. So are nuts really a preventive medicine?

According to the nutrition expert Dr Alan Stewart: "There seem to be health benefits attached to tree nuts (as opposed to ground nuts, known as peanuts). These are rich in vitamin E and other nutrients, and may help cardiovascular disease."

On the whole, Dr Stewart values nuts, "although some snack varieties are ruined by excess salt and monosodium glutamate, the less messed around they are, the better. Ideally eat nuts raw and mixed, because each variety carries different amino acids that complement each other." They may be less tasty, but nuts are twice as nourishing raw as when roasted.

Although nuts have a relatively high fat content, it is far of the less harmful, unsaturated kind; they also contain many goodies such as vitamins, iron, calcium and essential amino acids.

But Marge Finchell, a colon therapist, says people often eat many more than they need. "I find people who eat a lot of nuts have clogged up systems and are often constipated."

ation. "Those on the shelves this Christmas will mainly have been harvested in August or September 1991; so they should last another six months in their shells."

The poor peanut, which strictly speaking is a legume, is also cited as the most likely to cause allergy. Although this is rare, it has caused some deaths and, Dr Stewart believes, anyone who has an adverse reaction (a swelling of the mouth or lips) should take it seriously. However, the peanut is top of the league in protein terms, with a quarter of its weight being protein, which makes it comparable to beef.

OTHER high scorers for protein are almonds and cashews, at just over 20 per cent. The almond is particularly favoured because of its lower fat content and because of the high biological value of its protein. Macadamias, pecans and pistachios, on the other hand, have less than 10 per cent protein. But the real oddball is the chestnut, which is almost 50 per cent water and supplies only 2 per cent protein.

Those who want to do their bit for the rainforests should be sure to buy nuts from small co-operatives in the exporting countries, such as Africa or Latin America, rather than the big "exploitative" producers. This could help dissuade locals from cutting down their trees.

In our greed in Britain we may chew more nuts than we can digest, but they remain a valuable source of energy. Around the world, says Dr Stewart, nuts have saved the lives of many people in poor countries. Hats off to the kernel.

Immaculate direction

ENTERTAINING AT HOME

Derek Nimmo

When we entertain in the country it's very casual. My wife puts the food out on a long dresser, everyone helps themselves and we sit down and eat at our big pine kitchen table. Last weekend we had beef with pepper corns in it and a mustard sauce. There were ten of us. I find the important thing is not to have too many actors, never more than a brace; one should always mix people up. Afterwards we sit by great big, roaring log fires, no ties, and it's just pleasant.

London entertaining is much more formal. It's essential to have your placement arranged and, to this end, I have a magnetic board on which I juggle the pieces until I get them exactly right. I like things to run smoothly and happily. I never leave things to chance. People like being pampered, I think. There's nothing worse than coming into a dining-room and someone saying, "You sit there... No, hang on, I got that wrong, no, you're married to..." You feel unsettled before you even sit down. Then you suddenly find you've got three women sitting next to each other and you're in a total mess.

So my placement board is very important. At a recent dinner party we had an Omani friend of mine who has the best cellar in Muscat of anyone I know. His great hero when he was a student in London was Laurence Olivier, so to match with him I had Tarquin Olivier (his son) along with his wife, who is Turkish and knows the Omani well. Then we had Geoffrey Palmer and his wife, Sally, and we chose them because Tarquin had seconded, and I had proposed, Geoffrey for the Garrick Club. I do think it's so important to get all this sort of thing right.

As people arrive, one of the staff opens the door and guests usually get a look at the placement board before they come upstairs to the drawing-room, where we gather for drinks. The first duty of the host is to make sure that nobody talks over drinks to the



Derek Nimmo: "I never leave things to chance"

person they will be sitting next to at dinner. If that happens, you have to shunt them off quickly.

We either have ten or 12 people and my wife always does the cooking. She's a wonderful, marvellous cook, and I wouldn't want anybody to do it apart from her. But we do get people in to help. One works in the kitchen and two at table.

We usually start with champagne, followed by white wine with the first course, water in a large glass, red wine with the main course in a decanter, pudding wine in another decanter, then port, cognac and cigars for the men while the ladies clear off on their own — never quite sure where they go, into the bedrooms I think.

Later, we all meet up again in another drawing-room, where everyone catches up with the people they haven't talked to during the evening. By about half-past two they all go home. I do think people like a dinner party to be as immaculate as you can make it.

My main contribution to dinner parties is choosing the wine. I also do the flowers. I find it hugely therapeutic. We always have candles, of course. Candles are lovely. As all our lights and lamps are on dimmers, we can vary the mood. This theatricality is all part of a dinner party.

Mrs Nimmo's beef curry cream soup

4oz finely chopped shallots
1oz butter
1 level tsp curry paste
1oz flour
1-2pt vegetable or chicken stock
1 strip lemon rind
1 small bay leaf
1 small dessertspoon arrowroot
cream

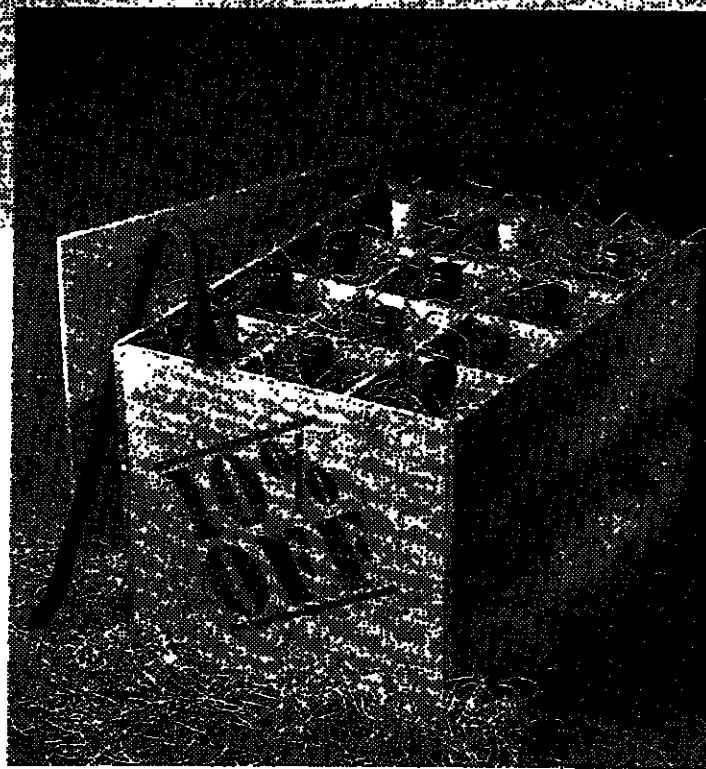
Soften shallots in three quarters of an ounce of butter. Add curry paste and cook for 4-5 minutes. Add the rest of the butter and the flour and pour on the stock. Bring to the boil, add lemon rind and bay leaf, simmer 20 minutes, strain and return to a rinsed pan to reduce if necessary. Then add arrowroot slaked with a tablespoon of cold water, and re-boil. Strain again, cool, then chill. Serve with a spoonful of the following cream in each cup:

1 wineglass port
1 tsp curry paste or powder
1 good dessertspoon apricot jam or puree from dried apricots
2tbsp whipped cream

Mix the port and curry paste and simmer until reduced by half. When cold, mix with the puree of jam, strain, then beat into the cream.

Interview by Paddy Burt

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حکومت الاصل

High-flying lessons on the small-time trapeze

A new type of circus is teaching acrobatic skills and confidence, Xa Younger reports

A clown called Peanut once told me, "Circus is like life and life is like a circus. Circus is a way for each individual to carve out a new role for themselves. Ever wanted to fly? The trapeze is all rigged up. Ever wanted to play the fool, to laugh and cry in public? The red nose is in the dressing room."

While the animal-centred Billy Smart type of circus has fallen victim to the politically correct nineties, a more participatory type of circus has flourished. This "new circus" harks back to the roots of the art in being based on the skills of the performers, and is far removed from the razzle-dazzle of the big top.

New circus has no ringmasters in top hats cracking whips, or caged tigers and plumed horses waiting in the slips. Shows are small-scale and imaginative, often involving the local community, and embracing people of all ages and aptitudes.

Many clubs and workshop groups around the country have sprung up to meet an increasing demand for learning circus skills, and circus training is being made more accessible to young people through such ventures as The Circus Space in London, Foot Time in Bristol, Skylight in the North West and Leeds Children's Circus in Yorkshire. Activities vary according to resources, but all schools have highly qualified teachers who instruct, coax and reassure their charges while they conquer new dimensions. The common denominator, however, is that children have a good time and want to come back for more.

At The Circus Space on Friday evening, 24 under-11s are warming up on exercise mats. The activities in store are flying on the trapeze, trampolining and tumbling. Before long the wooden studio, with its sagging rafters, is vibrating with the thud of little feet as they back-flip, somersault and flick-flack around the room. A huddle of children shivers with excitement at the base of the ladder leading to the 20ft trapeze. With coaxing from Jeff Davis, the coach, even the smallest will fly 15ft through the air, attached by a harness. Parents on the sidelines

wait in anticipation for their little one to do the "big turn".

Penny Wiles, whose second son Nathan attends the circus school, extols its merits. She believes it can help the "second-sound syndrome", as he can find his own meter in a non-competitive forum. Children can quickly pick up skills such as juggling and tumbling, and move on to the next level in an escalating process of achievement and goal-setting. Nathan says breathlessly between cartwheels: "I love it here, trapeze flying is even better than my Super Nintendo."

Peanut, alias Peter Turner, who is the originator of Leeds Children's Circus, is not alone in believing that the benefits of learning circus skills should not be underestimated. Activities such as tightrope walking and globe-rolling aid balance, while juggling improves concentration and hand-eye co-ordination.

Noreen White, who runs Skylight Circus in Rochdale, says

light. Circus in Rochdale, says balance, timing and reflexes improve, and confidence and self-esteem are enhanced. "Children are even given a new dimension for self-expression," she says.

Learning the circus skills is also pure fun, according to Petra Owens, who runs a workshop in Riverside Studios in London's Hammersmith. "Watching the kids learn skills like unicycling and still-walking is like watching flowers grow and blossom. I have seen a very nervous child, who could do very little when he arrived, master the basic skills and go on to much more challenging things."

In December The Circus Space, along with many other circus schools up and down the country, is opening its doors to provide cabaret entertainment. Adults and children take part in this blend of theatre,

mime, acrobatics and dance. For many youngsters, it will be their first opportunity to use stage skills and explore their "stage presence".

The deputy head of a north London school believes that circus skills promote "motivation and interaction". In the past he has seen pupils to The Circus Space, and says he would do so again if funding was available.

The Circus Space is keen to expand its premises to keep up with the demand. If all goes well, in 1994 it will expand into a former power station in Hackney. Charlie Holland, the general manager, believes that it will provide a much-needed base for the circus arts to be developed on a par with circus schools in Europe.

Contemporary circus training provides children with a range of skills that can be applied to a much wider spectrum. Although every youngster has dreams of running away and joining the circus, and why not? For these children it is no longer beyond the bounds of possibility.

Events

□ **Pippi Longstocking**: Swedish children's author Astrid Lindgren is celebrated in the first British staging of her classic *Pippi Longstocking* books. Kenneth Raa directs a song-and-dance show with acrobats and a seven-piece jazz band. Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891), Mon, Tues, 2pm, Wed, Thurs, 10.30am and 2pm. Admission free by ticket from box office.

□ **Monsters and Minotaurs**: Tara Arts presents a new drama aimed at seven to 11-year-olds: stories of the Cretan Minotaur and other fabulous beasts are told using puppets, masks, mime, song. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W6 (081-748 3354); today, 2.30pm; 12.

□ **Lego weekend**: A range of workshops for over-sevens exploring the unexpected possibilities of plastic. Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891); today, 10am-midday, 2-4pm, 4.30-6.30pm; tomorrow, 2-4pm, 4.30-6.30pm; 13.

NATIONAL
□ **Beauty and the Beast**: Snap Theatre in musical adaptation (for seven to 11-year-olds). Maitlands Arts Centre, St Albans (0721 44222); today, 3pm, 2.50, £3. Sutton Centre Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield (0623 556276); Tues, 1.30pm, 7pm; £2, £2.50. Ruskiff Leisure Centre, Westbridgeford (0602 234921); Fri, 7.30pm; £2.50.

□ **Breaking Boundaries**: Irish theatre company Wet Paint are tackling issues of sexuality and relationships in *Tangles*: a blend of dance, drama, music, lyrics (from 14 years).

Woodlands Centre, Gillingham, Kent (0634 852300); Tues, 7.30pm, 5.00. Grace Fields Theatre, Rochdale (0706 353643); Thurs, 2pm and 7pm; £1.50, £1.

□ **Ease-Me-Mine-Mo**: Ingrid Irlrich's comic mime show for four to 12-year-olds. Assembly Rooms, 54 George Street, Edinburgh (031-220 4343); next Sat, 10am; £2.

KARI KNIGHT

Ever wanted to fly? "New circus" can fulfil a child's ambition

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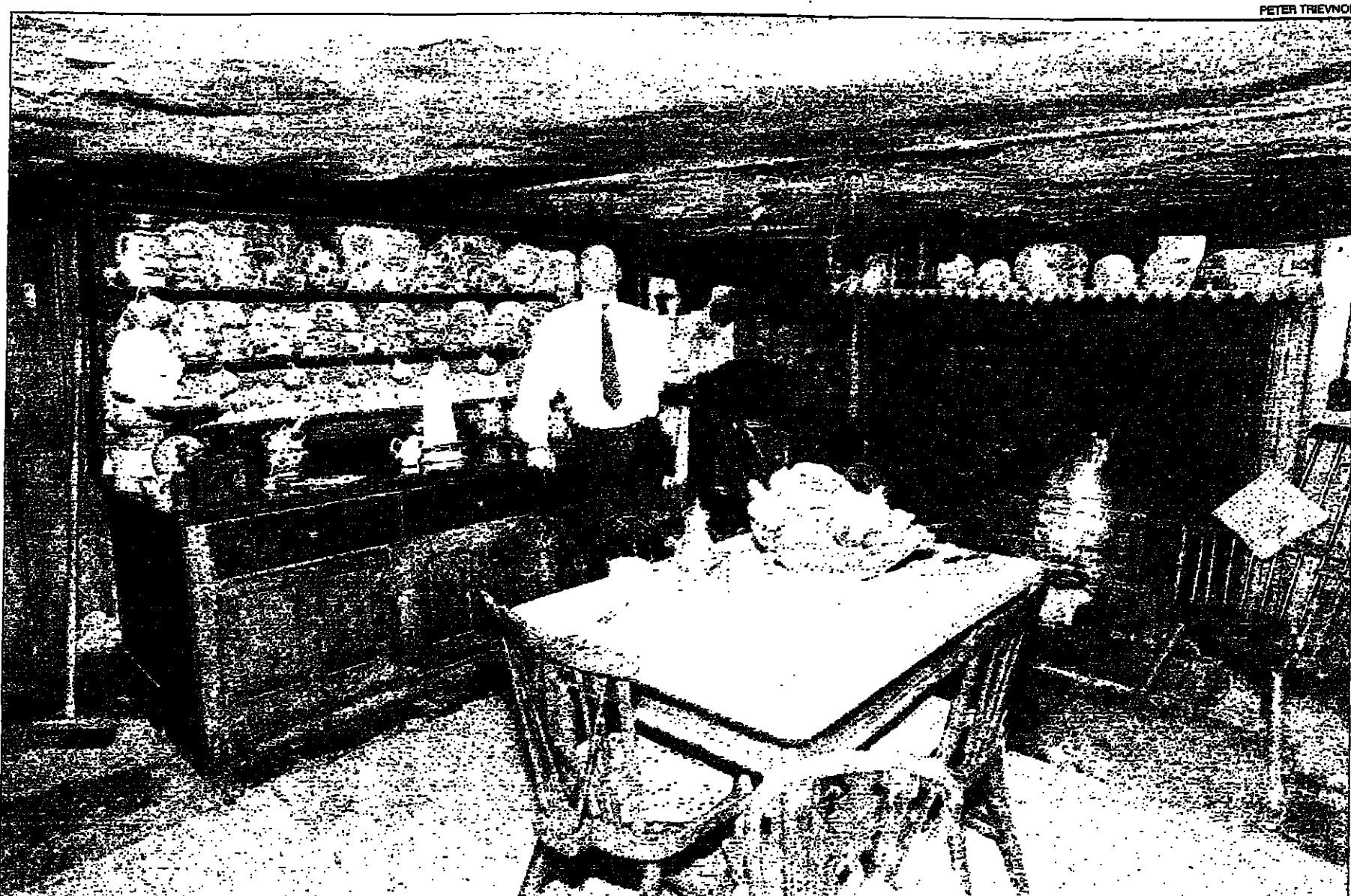
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WOMAN,

On an extraordinary journey through time in a 'haunted house' in the East End of London, Annie Rankin encounters the spirit of assorted cockneys past, not to mention Saddam Hussein



Revelry, Hogarth style: a decadent scene in the dining-room and (right) Dennis Severs surveys the Jervis's kitchen, domain of the mischievous Rebecca; meanwhile the house is suffused with the aromas of baking bread and roast meat



Magical history tour

Where can you encounter Scrooge and David Copperfield, Hogarth and Beatrix Potter, the spirits of Christmas Past, all under one roof? Why by stepping back in time: not through a looking-glass or the back of a wardrobe but through the entrance of No. 18 Folgate Street.

Down a shabby street in Spitalfields, to the east of London's Square Mile, the audience of an extraordinary drama shivers in the dark. Here in Folgate Street, sometimes known as Tweet Street due to the caged canaries hanging from its silks, the scene is set for an unusual evening. At the appointed time a ghost peers down from an upper window, then the front door creaks open.

There stands Dennis Severs, a self-professed crackpot, who will reassemble the next three hours inside his house. He leads you to a dank cellar, abandons you in the ebon, then bullies you into submission. "Anyone who thinks they can turn up and use their intellect to view my house is not welcome. If you haven't the imagination to leave behind the 20th century and come on this journey, you'd better stop wasting my time!" All eight guests are sitting to attention.

Tours of Mr Severs's house have

been variously defined as time travel, a social-historical experience, and a voyage of the imagination. He describes it as the longest-running play in London after *The Mousetrap* — publicised only by word of mouth. Whatever it might be, three nights a week for the past 14 years, groups of about eight have been captivated.

The plot follows the fluctuating fortunes of the Jervis family through the generations. They were silk weavers, originally Huguenot refugees, who settled, or so we are told, in this Georgian house at the start of the 18th century.

The aim of the show is to "contact a part of us which is not normally touched"; to bypass our busy minds, and let us feel how life was in the 18th and 19th centuries. Mr Severs hopes to inspire us to view the past in a new light, rather than approaching it from a modern, analytical standpoint. Buzz words such as "back-to-front", seeing the world "from inside-out", and understanding "the spirit of the age" pepper the script.

Each room is like a still-life painting which comes alive. Fires roar in every grate; lavender is strewn along the skirting boards. There are the tea-leaves used to gather the dust and bring out the colours of the carpet, and here the

canaries once so symbolic of the Huguenot silk trade that the weavers were known as canary-birds. Everywhere, candles illuminate authentic knick-knacks of the day: clay pipes, quills, wig powder and a nit-scratcher.

As well as taking up the narrative from Mr Severs, a taped recording provides a medley of period sounds: from the cries of street-hawkers and horses' hooves on the cobbles, to the bustle and banter of the Jervises in the next room.

The atmosphere is electric (the only thing in the house that is), and the sense of excitement highly contagious. Through portraits, visual and verbal, and through our study of their surroundings, the Jervises slowly take shape. We can hear, smell, even feel the family's presence as we are ushered from room to room. Half-eaten scones lie abandoned, cups of tea steaming, snuffed-out candles still smoking.

The narrative is devised first to strike our minds, then to stir our hearts and souls. "Mind is the enemy of art," Mr Severs claims. "In northern Europe our interest in things is more intellectual than artistic."

The house is suffused with evocative aromas: baking bread, roast meat, hot punch, the sweet scent of tobacco. By the time we pass the

tiered sweetmeats' stand of marzipans and sugared almonds, my tongue is almost hanging out.

Mr Severs works his magic with colourful descriptions. We are enchanted to hear how Rebecca the cook makes a quick farthing by selling the family tea through the kitchen window, secreted in a hollowed-out loaf. We are also bombarded with etymology — a pot-pourri of accurate, dodgy, and downright spurious details — cunningly balanced to intrigue and flatter. "Cheerio," we learn became a parting cry because footmen used to call "Chairs Hol", to hail sedan chairs to take guests home.

Were we to take it all literally (which we clearly are not meant to), we would believe every colloquialism in the book derived from the East End. "You are not here to learn anything," Mr Severs insists. Nursery rhymes are dubiously deciphered, and random contemporary references are tossed in to confuse us: Saddam Hussein is included, and we leap from rococo candelabras to Michael Jackson and Rick Astley in a baffling *non sequitur*.

Mr Severs has various devices to heighten our awareness. At one point, my concentration slips, and I spy a slip of paper pinned to an armchair which reads: "Pay attention." This man has a reputation for throwing out those who treat his home as a museum.

As the family falls on hard times, we find ourselves in a cheerless Dickensian world. The attic air is thick and acid, we can almost taste the Victorian smog — or could, if our teeth weren't chattering so much. A chilly draft is nipping at our ankles, and we truly appreciate how grim it must have been to share one bed with the entire family. Is that Mrs Jervis in the coronation photograph and what are Bill Sykes and Nancy doing here? Thankfully, I've stopped trying to sift fact from fiction.

So we are relieved to enter the cosy Victorian parlour. Here, the young queen's grief at losing Albert is almost as palpable as Miss Jervis's fear of Jack the Ripper. I feel a sympathy for the Victorians never previously known: their tasteless clutter and sentimentality seem more understandable as a rejection of the Age of Reason and the soulless good taste of the Georgians.

Throughout the unfolding drama, Mr Severs's performance is spellbinding, his stage-management slick and professional. Without such energy and passion, the show could not go on. So it might be churlish to wonder whether he's supremely dedicated (he actually lives here with not a mod-con in sight), or merely obsessed.

We stagger out, punch-drunk and disoriented, my friend remarking: "I've never experienced anything like that before!" We agree that we were wholly absorbed. Mr Severs may have claimed we were not there to learn, but we did — not through the barrage of trivia, but through glimpses of ordinary lives.

Above all, we felt and responded to the past by coming at it from behind. We even approached the present from the past, "back-to-front" as Mr Severs promised: so we saw the 20th century from a refreshingly novel angle.

Indeed, so far from the 20th century were we transported, that we could not remember where we'd parked. For those with an ounce of curiosity and a spare £25, I recommend a trip to Folgate Street. Don't go without a warm coat, a full belly, and an open mind. But do go. 18 Folgate Street (071-247 4013)



Bedrock of good taste: Mr Jervis's chamber and china collection

Experience the past

□ The Georgian Group, 37 Spital Square, London E1 6DY (071-377 1722)

Most events are for members only, except the winter lectures from Jan-Mar at the Linnaean Society, Burlington House, W1 from 6.30-7.30pm (dates to be confirmed).

□ The Irish Georgians, 42 Merrion Square, Dublin 2 (011-353 1 767083)

For the London chapter, contact Patricia Behr, 140 Colchester Court, SW5 (071-370 3824).

□ The York Georgian Society, The King's Manor, York (contact Mrs Brown, 0904 792023)

Runs a public winter lecture series and summer events and trips.

□ The Georgian Society at the University of Edinburgh, 19 George Square, EH8 9LD (031-556 4141)

Evening lectures held every three weeks during the university term.

□ The Victorian Society, 1 Priory Gardens, London W4 1TT (081-994 1019)

Holds lectures and events for members and non-members with regional groups in Bath, Bristol, Birmingham, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Hampshire, Yorkshire and South Wales.

□ The Tenement House, 145 Buccleuch Street, Glasgow G3 6QN (041-553 0183)

This small, furnished flat provides an unusual view of ordinary Glaswegian life early this century.

MY PERFECT WEEKEND

SIR RANULPH FIENNES

Explorer and writer

Where would you go?

To heaven.

How would you get there?

Free of charge.

Where would you stay?

In a timeless succession of the world's best hotels.

Who would be your perfect companion?

My wife, Ginny, at the age of 17.

What essential piece of clothing would you take?

Material things would not be necessary in heaven, but I would take Clark's desert boots, which can cope with all situations.

What medicines would accompany you?

Just in case there is no welfare in heaven, I would take penicillin, oil of cloves for toothaches, antihistamine for mosquito bites and Deep Heat ointment.

What would you have to eat?

Avocadoes, Somerset cheese, chocolate drinks, roast chicken and Yorkshire pudding, as well as all the items on the standard menu at Simpson's.

What books would you take?

The complete works of J.R.R. Tolkien, Mervyn Peake and Thomas Hardy.

What music would you listen to?

I would listen to very little music — just the occasional light tune to bring back earthly memories, such as "San Francisco" by Scott McKenzie, "Mull of Kintyre" by Paul McCartney and Paul Robeson's "Banana Boat Song".

What would you watch on television?

Definitely not *Neighbours*, *East-Enders*, *Jasper Carrott* and the



endless snooker and quiz shows that grace the television most hours of the day.

What films would you watch?

I would watch *The Duellists*, *Walkabout*, *Don't Look Now* and *Where No Vultures Fly*.

Would you play any games or sport?

I would learn white-water canoeing, how to free-fall and how to play chess.

What luxury would you take?

Badedas bubble bath — and since, hopefully, illness would not be possible in heaven, I would take up smoking again, probably mini Havanas.

What piece of art would you like to have there?

The Lloyd's building, which I would blow up daily.

Who would be your least welcome guest?

The VAT officer for the Hammer-smith district.

Which newspapers or journals would you read?

The local heavenly rag in order to check on new arrivals, the daily newspaper to remind me of all the nastiness down below.

What three things would you leave behind?

My ailments, my bad habits and all my untouchable dreams.

What three things would you most like to do?

Witness the eventual cessation of injustice, liner and cruelty on earth. Have parabolised those speculators who build ugly buildings in unspoilt parts of national parks. Wave a wand to make Rover the world-beating car manufacturer it ought to be.

To whom would you send a postcard?

I would send postcards to all my friends and relations, and one to John Major with a "chin-up" message.

What souvenir would you bring home?

A photograph of myself walking with old (dead) friends on a cloud.

What would you like to find when you got home?

I'd like to find that nothing had changed — with the exception that Britain and Denmark had joined the ERM in the first league and that Germany and France had been relegated to the second.

Interview by Rosanna Greenstreet

● Sir Ranulph Fiennes, with Dr Michael Stroud, is currently making the longest-ever unsupported polar journey. Called *The Penland South Pole Expedition*, it will be the first crossing of Antarctica on foot and aims to raise more than £2 million for the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Festive treats from Frances Bissell, *The Times* cook



A taste of Christmas

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This year, readers can buy Frances Bissell's famous Christmas pudding and cake at the same prices as last year — plus an attractive wicker hamper that contains the pudding and cake, and a jar of her special mincemeat, a jar of mandarin liqueur butter and a bottle of Pedro Ximenez sherry.

The pudding contains dried apricots, prunes, walnuts and the distinctive flavour of citrus fruits, from fresh juice to fragrant oils. It weighs just under 2lb and can be reheated by boiling, steaming or microwaving. Instructions included. Price: £9.95

The unliced 2.2lb cake contains fine fruits, almonds, hazelnuts, dates, apricots, walnuts and black cherries. Butter and brown sugar provide richness. Price: £14.95


The wicker hamper measures at 41 1/4cm high, 44cm wide and 30cm deep, and contains cake and pudding, plus a 15oz jar of mincemeat, 6oz jar of mandarin liqueur butter, and a bottle of Pedro Ximenez sweet sherry by Emilio Lustau. Price: £69.95

To ensure pre-Christmas delivery, orders must be received by December 2nd. Access Visa card holder: can order direct by phoning 0525 551945, Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm.

scored 36 and Salim Malik took three wickets for 37. SCORES: Pakistan 107 (44.1 overs); West Australian Invitational 21 (28 for 6.45 overs). Pakistan won by one run.

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Queen Mary said that when they cut her open they would find "Calais" graven on her heart. The pathologist will be surprised to see "Sutherland Lodge Irving Test Centre, St Omer Road, Guildford" when he examines my aorta.

In much of the world, the ability to drive is of less use than spats to a Mis World contestant. But in the West it has become, like no other single skill, the line that separates men and the women from the boys and the girls.

The test opens the door to another world. This world is partly real but mostly peopled by adolescent dreams.

The reality is that driving makes life more convenient. It is easier to drive a car to the top of Ben Nevis than to walk. A car is warm and dry. A bus stop is cold and wet; and colder and wetter after the last bus. With a car and a Saturday job you need never again be dependent on people 30 years older who are taking revenge for no longer being young.

Large areas of human experience are barred to non-drivers. They can never form part of a convoy of trucks, drunk on diesel smoke, riding across the Continent. They cannot become taxi-drivers or travelling Xerox salesmen.

These practical reasons are all very well, but in fact it is almost always cheaper and faster to call a cab or to take the train. Cars are expensive to buy, to maintain, to tax, to insure and to fuel. The road is a frustrating and dangerous place to earn a living. The kerbs are littered with psychopaths with eavers in their holdalls, and the other drivers are asleep or insane. You can drive as far as you like, but all roads look much the same. They are black with white lines.

The real reason for passing the test is romance. The driving licence is less a passport to growing up than a passport to the dream of growing up. In an ideal world we would never pass our driving tests. We would keep believing for ever that one day we would have a ticket to true freedom.

A glance at the faces in a traffic jam is enough proof that driving has nothing to do with freedom. Advertisements try to persuade us otherwise, from that eighties cine-

James Hepburn on the pain of having plenty of driving ambition but little skill when it came to the test

ma classic, the Drifter chocolate bar commercial, in which the hip couple in the Volkswagen Beetle break off on to the desert road to the sound of "Driftaway", to the later television versions where your brand of car, for some reason never fully explained, allows you to escape from the traffic and cross the jammed city, using a succession of cranes, alleyways and disused railway tracks.

Of course, no one is fooled by this vision of freedom at the wheel. No one but the 17-year-old without a licence. No one but the boy whose girl is in the passenger seat of another man's Escort.

At 17 I was in love with Janet Addis-Jones. Janet's double-barrelled name was nowhere in Debreit's. It was an accident of an unhappy childhood; but in beauty and bloody-mindedness she had all the qualities of the genetically siphoned. She was at boarding-school five miles down the road. I held on to her while the sun shone.

But I knew the rain would come, and with it two boys from Camberley called Marcus and Steve. They had cars and knew how to use them. Cars could drive her to the coast at night. She talked of the light from the dashboard with stars in her huge brown eyes. I needed wheels.

The one thing for which no driving instruction can prepare you is the absolute absence of humanity in the test. The examiners emerge one by one into the waiting-room, clipboard in hand. They pause in the doorway, look down at the clipboard, and say a name. The voice has been carefully bled of all

'PHEW - THAT WAS CLOSE.'



emotion. My examiner was the last to appear. His voice said "Mr Hepburn", but his hang-man's face said: "Welcome to the crypt; my name is Doctor Phibes."

Driving examiners are not allowed to chat. They follow a

million tests a year. There is nothing special in your test and nothing special in you. You are one more chip of gravel on their path from cradle to grave.

The driving test is the only examination many of us endure where we are watched in minute detail as we put theory into practice. In an O or an A-level you are judged on what emerges at the end of three hours. You can spend two and a half hours writing "the battle of Hastings took place in 748 BC", but if your final version says "1066" you pass. The closest we come in life's other Rites of Passage is the first attempt at sex; but then the person marking us tends to be as undressed and incompetent as ourselves. There is no silent man sitting on the arm of the sofa making marks on his clipboard.

My first test was lost from the

moment the windows steamed up. A large number of motoring problems are covered in *The Highway Code*, but there is no mention of control of the heater. It was a very cold day. The heater was turned to full, directed at feet instead of windshield. The examiner asked me to start and drive forwards. I stalled. They warn you about the first stall. The first stall does not matter. But the examiner still makes a mark on his clipboard. So I began to sweat. As we drove along the air, super-saturated in the equatorial heat, turned to condensation against the windows. By the time we had taken two left turns and arrived at the junction of the Epsom Road, the outside world had disappeared altogether.

I never recovered from clambering over the back seat to clean the back window with my jumper. I failed on eight test requirements. The one that dispirited me most was "failure to make proper use of the steering wheel".

After the first fiasco I abandoned

formal instruction and became a loose cannon at the Sutherland Grove Test Centre, arriving in a variety of borrowed cars. The least successful was a bottle-green Avenger, whose gear-stick had come off in my hand during the three-point turn ("failure to make proper use of the gears").

Half the people who take the United Kingdom driving test pass the first time, four-fifths pass by the second time. These people can have no idea of the cumulative horror of repeated failure. I failed six times, which put me low down the list of the great driving test incompetents. Mrs Git Kaur Randhava passed in Hayes on her forty-eighth attempt. Mrs Fannie Turner, in Little Rock Arkansas, on her 104th. But they are immortals. I am only human and six failures goes beyond the point that flesh and blood can stand.

By my seventh test I was 21. I

had passed through various stages, from the philosophical to the desperate to the resigned; and now I was on the brink of the criminal. But finally I passed on my seventh attempt. I had an extra incentive. I was going to America. America is the place where dreams and cars merge. Without a licence you feel awkward when your strangely beautiful companion is shot in the foot and she looks to you to outrun the State police across the Badlands to the Nebraska line.

Since 1981 the driving test has barely changed. You now have to be able to park. This was a surprising omission in the previous test, launching generations of drivers on to the roads, like millions of Flying Dutchmen, equipped to drive to the ends of the earth, but never to rest.

And what happened to Janet? Did she wait for me through the long driveless years? Did she hell. She passed her test and bought a Karmann Ghia. The last I saw of her she was headed for the coast.

The one that dispirited me the most was 'failure to make proper use of steering wheel'

script. Possibly they have happy private lives. But they leave the human being behind at the gates of the Sutherland Grove Test Centre. They become less than in a sense more than men. It would be wrong to compare them to God, though God too has power over life and death. They are closer to the Fates — blind, incorruptible and terrible. There are 1,500 of them. Between them they carry out nearly two

A cast of thousands bringing art to Londoners



Venus enormous: the reclining nude at Broadgate by the Colombian sculptor Fernando Botero

HOME-MADE sculptures are becoming popular. The latest is this 14ft blue marlin leaping over the roof of a house in Norbury, south London (right). This is realism with a vengeance, since the glass-fibre coating conceals a real fish, now stuffed, that the owner of the house, John Gladden, caught in Hawaii. It may, however, be moved, after complaints from neighbours. A similar sculptural shark sent Oxford councillors through the roof.



Witty commissioning is helping to promote a sculptural renaissance in the capital's open spaces, writes Derwent May

Coming out of Edgware Road Tube station in London, you may bump into a window cleaner on the pavement — and it could take a moment before you realise he is rather more than life-size, and not going to move out of the way. He is staring up at the tower of a new shop and office block, Capital House, which has a great many rather beautiful windows, and he is looking very worried. The little ladder he has on his back will hardly reach the lowest window. But pathetic though his equipment may be, he already seems, like a good workman, to be appraising the situation, his cap pushed back professionally on his head.

The Window Cleaner by Allan Sly is only one of the numerous delightful statues and sculptures that have suddenly thronged London's public spaces in the last few years — many of them, like this one, as an apt or witty part of a new development.

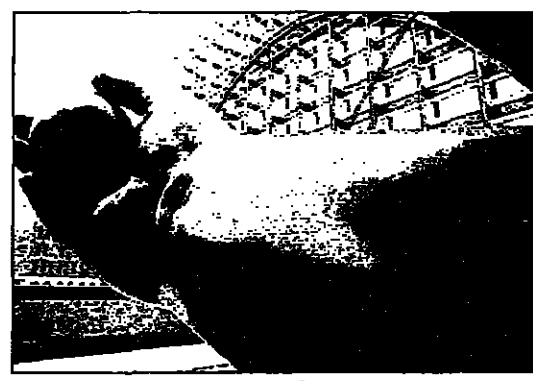
In Finsbury Avenue Square is a group of gloomy commuters in bronze trodding towards Liverpool Street station. This is *Rush Hour* by the American sculptor George Segal, and is part of the Broadgate development. Here, without many people realising it, London has acquired over the past four years an unofficial sculpture park.

The most spectacular work is the Broadgate Venus, a giant reclining nude by Fernando Botero, with a face like Queen Victoria and a body like a Sumo wrestler. Five tons of bronze have gone into her, and she dominates the new Exchange Square, good-humouredly reminding City workers how great the pleasures of love can be.

Facing her across the square are some strange cowed figures in black basalt, very stark at first view, that slowly declare themselves to be a family — two adults, a child and a dog — with a recognisable child's shoe offering a clue. This adds another note to the internationalism of Broadgate, for it is by the Catalan sculptor Xavier Corbero.

Broadgate Square itself contains a playful hare leaping over a bell by a young Liverpool sculptor, Barry Flanagan, and Jacques Lipchitz's *Bellerophon Taming Pegasus* — a squat figure standing firm amid a

chaos of flying hooves and mane. Go into No 1 Finsbury Avenue and you will find the foyer filled by an even greater storm of energy: a wild horse rearing crazily up on gigantic hind legs and lifting its spindly forelegs into the sky, its rider reeling and stretching a hand out towards an eagle. This is *Horse and Rider* by one of the best British sculptors of our time, Robert Claxworthy. It is not strictly part of Broadgate, but an ornament to another new office development. One cannot help feeling that this is



Handful: part of Botero's five-ton bronze Venus

what the dreary concrete spaces of the South Bank and the Barbican should have looked like.

However, there is another stretch of the south bank of the Thames that need feel no shame. This is the area just over Tower Bridge, around the Design Museum — which brings us to Sir Eduardo Paolozzi. He has been in the news lately for the sculpture of Sir Isaac Newton that he is working on for the piazza of the new British Library. This was inspired by William Blake's vision of Newton — and the objection was raised that for Blake, Newton the great measurer was the enemy, not a hero. But Paolozzi told me that he has long been fascinated by Blake's powerful painting in the Tate, and senses a swelling undercurrent of admiration in it that runs counter to Blake's expressed views on Newton. Paolozzi also did a statue of Newton for a park in Kowloon, and in 1990 a monumental head of him that lives by the river at Butler's Wharf, and was paid for by Sir Terence Conran to adorn the Design Museum.

There is another superb recent Paolozzi in London, in High Holborn. It is set in the facade of the Royal Life Insurance offices, and represents Paolozzi himself in the

guise of Hephaestus, the blacksmith of the gods, who was something of a comic figure in classical mythology: Paolozzi makes him powerful but battered, a touch of humour playing about his mighty presence. To judge from the maquettes, when we have his Newton in the British Library we shall have a great Paolozzi trilogy in London.

Near the Design Museum in Tower Bridge Plaza, there is a friendly new fountain by Antony Donaldson: it is like a copper saucepan, with naked girls sunning themselves on the rim and their sunglasses, flip-flops, watches and so on scattered — in solid metal — on the outer edge of the basin.

Commemorative statues of individuals are less favoured than they used to be. Objections were even made to John Doubleday's Charlie Chaplin in Leicester Square. Some called it an insult to Shakespeare, who stands nearby. But it is a fine statue (the wonderful spring in his cane would alone justify it, and

Shakespeare must so hate his own flaccid effigy that I am sure he is delighted to have Chaplin for company. Charlie is now on a plinth, but I preferred it when he was on the ground.

The airmen Dowding and "Bomber" Harris have worthy statues in the Strand, but a better work is Ian Walters's Fenner Brockway in Red Lion Square. This fiery little orator, stretching himself up so that his trouser-bottoms are well above his shoes, fills me with energy whenever I pass him.

So sculptors are having something of a renaissance. They are not rich, earning about £20,000 for a life-size statue (more for the most famous). Out of that they must pay all the costs of casting and so on. The days have gone when a sculptor could spend half a lifetime on one Victorian notable.

There is one prime site not yet occupied: an empty plinth in the north-west corner of Trafalgar Square. When a Sunday paper asked its readers whom they would like to see on it five years ago, there was a majority for Dowding. But he now has his statue elsewhere. Who would *Times* readers like to see in this place of honour? Write to me with your suggestions.



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scored 36 and Salim Malik took three wickets for 37. Scores: Pakistan 167 (41 overs); West Australia 186 for 6 (46 overs). Pakistan won by one run.

صكنا من الأصل

Music is still the guiding force in pop-culture street clothes, from Acid-house sweatshirts and bover boots to

Slaves to the rhythm

Urban counterculture and attitude are what street fashion is all about. It provides at once a reflection of mainstream youth culture and an inexpensive and unregulated forum for experimentation in which individuality is the ultimate goal. For designers such as Lacroix and Gaultier, it can be the inspiration for their haute couture collections.

Walking down the King's Road, it is easy to see how things have changed since the seventies. There are few shops left to explore, mass-market brand names dominate the virtually identical shop-fronts. Camden market on a Sunday afternoon is more bustling. To the sound of loud music people throng round market stalls which sell everything from old telephones to platform shoes. Many on the street are designers, artists and musicians seeking ideas, although their favourite adjective to describe most people's get-up is "drab".

Yet another reflection of the recession? Certainly not. Music is still a main factor influencing dress sense. Acid-house sweatshirts, glow-in-the-dark T-shirts and bover boots show that there is a strong following for both mainstream chart-busters and offbeat bands with names like The Klongz, Demented Are Go and The Ozric Tentacles.

This was confirmed when I bumped into Helmsey and Chirpy, from the band Londonbeat. "Fashion starts with the music," Helmsey says, adding that the term "street fashion" does not apply to musicians. "For me, the same persona works as well on-stage as off."

Helmsey is dressed almost entirely in stylish, black designer clothes, adding colour with a flower-patterned scarf and a ruse shirt displaying a graphic illustration from the *Kamasutra*.

Dedication to rhythm can come in many forms. Eric, a 16-year-old raver in regulation baseball cap, baggy jeans and trainers, goes on pilgrimages to that rave Mecca of the Med, Ibiza. John, from Islington,

lives in colourful cowboy boots and a seventies time warp, as the name of his band - T-Rex - suggests.

A few minutes later, a man with a goatee beard and women with vaguely sixties-style hair-dos appear, their collective look marking the trio as fans of funk, acid jazz and the band De La Soul. They look as though they might have stepped out of the pages of influential street fashion magazines such as *The Face* and *I-D*.

The phenomenon of New Age travellers and grunge, now diluted into many forms, is another harbinger of change. Matted hair, not washing, mongrel ownership and dressing down into torn, often army surplus, clothes are typical symptoms. Crusties gained notoriety last summer in the West Country, when an impromptu encampment turned into the site of a five-day music festival cum rave.

Whether you call it inverted snobbery (there are many ex-public school crusties), nostalgia or a genuine reaction against eighties materialism, there can be no doubt that the streets do have an eclectic New Age feel to them: babies with braided hair and clothes bought at craft fairs; wardrobes from the Birmingham rag market; charity and second-hand shops; oversize jumpers knitted by grandmothers; Indian and other ethnic designs; sixties flower-patterned Afghan-style coats with fake-fur borders; and above all, hats, ranging from soft and floppy Paddington Bear models to fedoras.

Mix most of these new ingredients together, and the cocktail you end up with is called a "glam grebo". That, at least, is how Veronique and Antonia, who are into punk and psychobillies (a cross between punk and rockabilly), describe themselves.

Image is everything, they insist, sucking out a mile on the King's Road. Between them they are wearing green velvet top hat, battered army boots with ankle bells to make



their presence felt at gigs, biker jackets, dyed chestnut hair, countless piercings and a lone dreadlock. Both feel underdressed. This is more than just a pose. They have even managed to source their image historically, as the Celtic band tattooed to the middle finger of their right hands shows.

An encounter with "Marilyn Monroe" a few minutes later came as something of a con-

trast. To Norma, an actress, the King's Road now looks "like colour by numbers but nobody's found the paint". Ever since the age of 11, when she saw David Bowie perform one of his androgynous concerts and compared it to the state faces on *Top of the Pops*, she vowed to be different. "I'm Hollywood glam in a drab age," she pouts.

Films such as the *Rocky*

Horror Picture Show and stars have always had a significant impact on street fashion. In television, the revival of *The Thunderbirds*, and the growing number of *Trekkies* (*Star Trek* fans) are symptomatic of the current retro craze.

With her hat bought in Greenwich Village, New York, and the rest in Camden and other markets, polychrome Sarah Sugarman states modestly: "I am streetwear," while fiercely attacking "grunge and crusties as rich, pathetic and middle-class".

Two Finnish au pairs give their views: "It's colourful here," says one, adding "compared with home". Her friend disagrees - home is more colourful. Given that it is dark several months of the year in their town of Semäjäki, I had hoped that London pop culture might have appeared brighter. Neither yet feels part of a definitive scene. Maybe once they have discovered The Klongz they will abandon their variegated hats for the psychobilly scene.

ISLANDS OF THE SEYCHELLES

A VISIT TO THE ISLANDS OF THE SEYCHELLES - MAHE, CURIEUSE, LA DIGUE, DES ROCHES, POIVRE, PRASLIN, ARIDE, COUSIN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1993

There is no better way to explore the islands of the Seychelles than by sea. Obviously large cruise vessels are totally unsuitable as the islands are small and the infrastructure minimal. The thought of hundreds of passengers landing on such idyllic islands as La Digue is too horrible to contemplate.

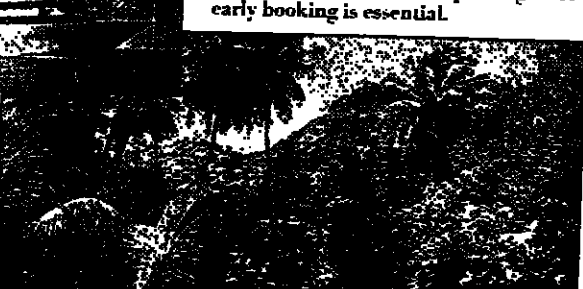
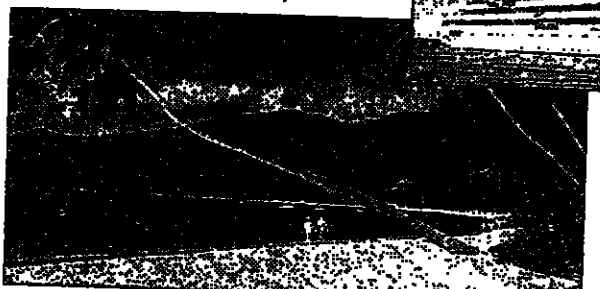
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No guidebook can fully prepare the visitor for the wonder that is Petra. Photographs depict the great Hellenic tombs and temples carved out of the sandstone cliffs, but they fail to convey the romance and excitement of the ride on horseback down through the sheer walls of the canyon, and the subsequent climb up to the High Place, the sacrificial altar perched on top of the soaring crags that overlook one of the most astonishing landscapes on earth. The rose-red city defies superlatives.

Nor is Petra all that the Hashemite kingdom of Jordan has to offer. Earlier this month the 57th birthday of King Hussein was celebrated with a spectacular hot-air balloon rally among the towering desert cliffs of the Wadi Rum (not needed to say, part of the regular tourist itinerary). We marvelled at the remains of the mighty imperial Roman city of Jeraz, before treating ourselves to a mud bath on the shore of the Dead Sea as dusk fell, and the distant lights of Jerusalem and Jericho glimmered from the occupied West Bank - all in three days.

How very different, it might be thought, from the home life of our own dear National Trust. But with its centenary due in 1995, the decorous old charity has hitched up its skirts and plunged adventurously into foreign affairs. On the shrewd assumption that people who like inspecting old buildings and agreeable landscapes at home will be happy to do the same abroad, it has joined forces with Voyages Jules Verne to organise tours to a number of the world's historic and scenic hotspots. "The tours are in line with our members' interests in art, archaeology, botany and so on," says Judy Robson, the trust's travel manager.

In the first eight weeks since

the scheme was launched in September there were more than 800 confirmed bookings, producing an extra income for the trust of some £70,000.

War and political turmoil in the Middle East have inevitably deterred visitors and inhibited the growth of a successful tourist industry. Jordan, a historical and archaeological treasurehouse, faces an implacable enemy on its western border, and internationally has done itself no favours, however understandable its motives, in refusing to join other Arab countries in condemning Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait.

Amman, Jordan's capital, has expanded in the last 40 years from a provincial backwater into a teeming city of

more than a million people which sprawls across what were formerly green and wooded hills. The trees are ruthlessly destroyed to accommodate the housing needs of hundreds of thousands of

immigrants from the Arab world, and the city is a chaotic jumble of modern and traditional architecture.

Today Amman is a bustling metropolis, but what is most remarkable is that the city has managed to preserve its ancient heritage. The ruins of the Roman city of Amman, known as Amman al-Balad, are still visible in the heart of the city. The city is a blend of old and new, with modern buildings and infrastructure coexisting with ancient ruins.

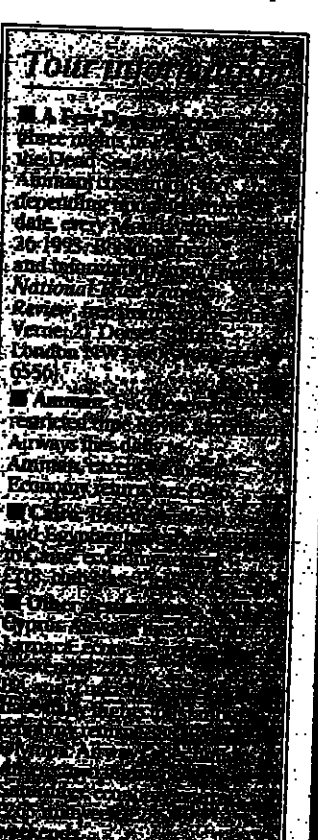
The glory that was Jerash: more of Jordan's archae-

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The glory that was Jerash: more of Jordan's archae-



gulation baseball caps. Sebastian Goetz reports



FAR LEFT
Musician Helmsley in Paul Smith scarf, Kamasutra top (£250) and leather jacket (£750) by John Richmond, trousers (£150) by Michiko Koshino.

LEFT
Norma Mullins, 30, wears shocking pink cropped jacket, leopard print shirt (£65 from Sidney Smith, King's Road), and Camden market jewellery.

TOP
Sarah Sugarman, 30, who runs the January theatre season at the Hackney Empire, wears scarf from Boy in Soho (£20), Greenwich Village hat, jacket from fund-raising event (£40).

ABOVE
Friends tattoo their dedication to each other, punk and psychobillies.

TOP RIGHT
For £25 in the Portobello Market, St Paul's schoolgirl Antonia achieves a cross between T-Rex and The Shamen.

ABOVE RIGHT
Finnish au pair sweeps the forests of Finland for rose-brimmed style from Bristol market.

RIGHT
Fitness studio manager Belinda "Billy" Lee, 30, wears boots from Red or Dead (£20 in sale); cap (£10) and tight zipped racing jacket (£25), both from The Garage, King's Road; coat a present.



John Goodbody on the respect and discipline of judo, and its use in self-defence

Judo has been Britain's most successful sport of the past six Olympic Games. It also, says the photographer Terence Donovan, helps to keep him and "thousands of other ordinary people sane. If I am on location abroad for longer than a week, I get edgy. I need to have a pull-around."

The sport is highly developed, a useful method of self-defence, and above all a vigorous recreation for all ages and both sexes. For Donovan, it makes an engagingly earthy contrast to his work as a fashion photographer.

"In judo, there is no shield, no Armani overcoat to hide behind. There is immediate physical contact. You learn about yourself when you are faced with an enormous ginger-haired bloke with every other tooth missing, salivating at the thought of pushing you straight through the mat."

Donovan practises at the Budokwai in South Kensington, the oldest judo club in Europe, where many of Britain's Olympic medal winners have trained. At 56 years old, he still has the size and physical knowledge to be obstructive on the mat. He gave up the sport as a youngster, returned briefly while on National Service and restarted at the age of 40.

"Judo is ferociously energetic. For the first six months, the only thing I could move when I woke up was my eyelids," he says. It demands strength, stamina, speed and agility in the range of throws, hold-downs, armlocks and strangles.

The sport was developed in Japan in the 19th century from the ancient samurai styles of jujitsu by Dr Jigoro Kano, and has been an Olympic event since 1972, largely through the energy of Charles Palmer, a vice-president of the Budokwai. The depth of ability in Japan is still greater than anywhere else in the world, but more than a hundred countries are now affiliated to the International Judo Federation.

Japanese terminology is still used throughout the world, and some people develop an interest in oriental culture and philosophy to balance the physical with mental endeavour. At one stage, Donovan considered living permanently in Japan and studying aikido, another martial art.

Despite the aggression, discipline and etiquette are essential to judo. "It is nice to bow to someone before trying to annihilate them. It shows a respect," Donovan says.

The kit, which is like a loose-fitting suit without buttons or zips (which could catch in people's eyes), is fastened by a belt, the colour of which denotes the holder's expertise.

Donovan is a 1st dan (degree) black belt, which would take most athletic young adults training three times a week about three years to acquire. They would have progressed through the kyu (pupil) grades: yellow, orange, green, blue and brown. Improvement is judged in gradings, when fighting ability and technical know-



Felling our own correspondent: Terence Donovan puts John Goodbody on the mat

ledge are tested. In championships, there are weight categories, seven for men and seven for women.

The sport does not breed arrogance. Consideration and help for kyu grades, and particularly beginners, is universal. "You should not try to defeat someone who attacked him. A nearby bus queue applauded."

Muscle bulk helps in open combat, but as Donovan says, he practised for years with Neil Adams, the former world light-middleweight champion, who

was half his size. "I never moved him an inch. The principle of judo is simple. If A and B are pushing towards each other, then A reverses and so adds B's strength to his own because he is moving two forces in the same direction. Instead of resisting, he harnesses his opponent's strength to his own advantage."

Women can practise alongside men, and the most skilled can often upset stronger but less adept males. Elite squads, however, train separately.

The biggest growth in judo is among children, whose natural boisterousness is channelled safely into a supervised sport: armlocks and strangles are prohibited in competition for anyone below the age of 16.

The Budokwai runs 12 classes a week for children aged from five upwards. For some, it will become a lifelong fascination. Donovan enjoys "the tremendous sight of 70 children on the mat, with absolute silence at the ceremonial bow. The parents like it because of the discipline the sport brings."

John Goodbody is sports news correspondent of The Times and a former member of Britain's national judo squad.

Judo fact box

- There are more than 900 clubs affiliated to the British Judo Association, 7a Rutland Street, Leicester LE1 1RB (0533 559669), which will give enquiries the name of the nearest club, most of which have special tuition for beginners. To compete, either in championships or to take a grading, a fighter needs an annual licence. This costs seniors £17.50, juniors £10.
- Equipment: judo is a cheap sport. A suit (judogi) is the only real outlay and costs about £40 for an adult and £25 for a child.
- Clubs: The Budokwai, 4 Giltspur Street, South Kensington, London SW10 (071-370 1000/2088) is the oldest and best-known club in Britain. Membership costs £35 a year, with adults paying a further £3 per session and children £2. Smaller clubs often charge less.
- Championships: there are dozens of regional, junior, schools and invasion events. The British National Championships take place at Crystal Palace next weekend (December 5 and 6), with adults on Saturday and young competitors on Sunday.

osed spectacle

ing takes in nder

It is in effect Pales- all the unplanned, appearance of iman, it has a not- ble history as the -raeco-Roman city

LINDA BARTLETT

of Philadelphia. Sporadic excavations have been carried out on the Acropolis, partly by the British School of Archaeology, but the largest and most intact Roman monument is the theatre that stands at the foot of the opposite slope across a busy downtown street.

Visitors to the Acropolis should on no account miss the Jordan Archaeological Museum, with its remarkable collection of Chalcolithic and Bronze Age pottery, much of it from Jericho, which claims to be the oldest continuously inhabited city on earth. The delicacy of the artefacts created two or three millennia before the heyday of classical Greece is a reminder that, as our guide, Hani, insisted more than once, Europeans tend to be regrettably Eurocentric.

Amman's Roman legacy, however, pales in comparison with the splendours of Jerash, about an hour's drive north of the capital, which ranks with Pompeii in its size and astonishing state of preservation. Although it reached its zenith in the first century AD, it continued to flourish until it was largely destroyed by an earthquake in 746.

Today most of the city is buried under acres of rubble. But what remains is still a marvel, including a glorious theatre, the ruins of the great temples of Jupiter and Diana, the huge elliptical forum, the marble-paved central avenue flanked by columns, and the triumphal triple-arched gate-

way built to mark the visit of the Emperor Hadrian.

In the deserts of eastern and southern Jordan life was never so opulent or so comfortable. The basalt fortress of Azraq, built by the Romans, rebuilt by the Arabs and used by T.E. Lawrence and Prince Faisal as their headquarters while planning the final assault on Damascus, speaks of a harsher, martial world. But the 8th-century domed palace of Qasr Amra, built for the Caliphs as a hunting lodge and bath-house and lavishly decorated with frescoes, suggests that the good life was not wholly excluded.

None can hold a candle, however, to Petra. From their caves in the rocks the otherwise little-known Nabataeans created a dream world of tombs and temples, palaces and streets, gateways and aqueducts that for centuries remained a Bedouin secret, until it was rediscovered in 1812 by the Swiss traveller, Johann Burckhardt. Miraculously the sandstone, so soft that it can be brushed away by hand, has so far survived the assaults of both man and nature. But how much longer can it continue to do so? Visitor congestion is already a serious problem at certain times, and present plans envisage the construction of three new luxury hotels and the modernisation of a nearby village to provide a further 86 guest rooms.

Although some leading Jordanians are aware of the dangers of commercialisation, the attractions of foreign currency earnings from tourism may well prevail over the need for careful conservation. The best advice is to see Petra before it is too late.

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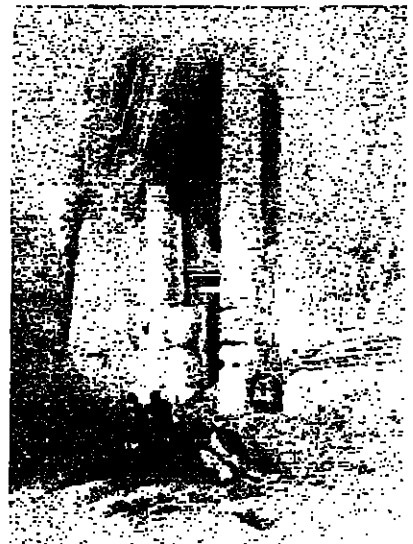
Itinerary Outline

Fly direct to Amman for an overnight stay at the Forum Hotel. City drive. Drive to Petra, en route visit Beqaa and Madaba. Also visit Kerak, an important Crusader castle. Continue to Petra and stay 3 nights in the Petra Palace Hotel. Ride (or walk) through the zig to the Treasury. Climb Mount Sela, see the Theatre, the Roman Way, the monumental Arch, the Temple and the Royal Tombs. Climb to El Deir, Petra's largest monument. Optional excursion to Beida and Little Petra. Drive to the Dead Sea for a leisurely 2-night stay. Return to Amman by road for an overnight stay (optional excursion to Jerash), thence fly to London.

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scored 36 and Salim Malik took three wickets for 37. SCORES: Pakistan 167 (44.7 overs); West Australian Invitational 186 for 6 (45 overs). Pakistan won by one run.

مكتبة الأمل

Francesca Greenoak finds a natural way to health among the plants and weeds in a London garden

Plants play an important part in the medicine of the late 20th century. We simply observe and evaluate them differently from our predecessors. A spectrum spreading from our folk medicine and the doctrine of signatures of the 17th century to the herbal medicines of tropical countries, studied under electron microscopes, emerged from "Plants and Medicine", a recent seminar organised by the Botanical Society of the British Isles at the Chelsea Physic Garden, London.

It was once widely held among European herbalists that plants with the power to heal diseases prevalent in a certain place would be found growing locally. Today, paradoxically, it is easier to find research into exotic plants than those on our doorstep.

Yet some of the conclusions — using the whole plant for example, rather than striving to isolate a single active principle, or employing a medley of plants (shown to be effective in a ten-herb Chinese prescription for atopic eczema) — are far from new. The whole plant approach is the one traditionally followed by herbalists in Britain, as I was assured by Claire Swann, who grows many of the plants she uses in her work.

Mrs Swann's small, downward-sloping, north-facing garden in Hampstead, north London, may not look unusual to a casual visitor, but it triggered her career in herbalism. Her interest was first aroused when a Trinidadian gardener told her that thyme was a herb of good health. Investigating the claim set her off on a study of herbalism, first as an amateur and later as a professional herbalist specialising in skin care.

Mrs Swann's garden is a pleasure as well as a resource base. She gardens organically and with regard for plant health rather than bedding schemes, and she prefers to let plants such as feverfew, mallow and marigolds find their own best place by self-seeding.

In spring, flowering and dessert cherries fill the scene with light blossom and carpet the terrace and steps with blossom. In autumn their russet and red leaves collect knee-deep on the lower beds, where they provide a warm winter blanket



Growing health cures: Claire Swann, a herbal skin specialist, raises many of the plants she works with

Backyard tonics

For some of the less hardy herbs. Plants often regarded as weeds, such as the blue-flowered alkanet, are important to Mrs Swann. Ground ivy is another, both as a garden plant and a medicinal herb. Simmering about three handfuls of ground ivy for 20 minutes in a medium-sized pan makes a cleansing and healing bath essence, she says. Medical application of herbs is best left to experienced practitioners.

BEST BUYS

THIS is National Tree Week, but make sure the tree you plant will not have to be cut down in a few years' time because it is too big for your garden. For smaller gardens, consider crab apples, whitebeams or, perhaps, an apple tree on dwarfing rootstock. If you are on neutral or acid soil, a Japanese maple will thrive in a sheltered spot. Alternatively, choose a coloured-stemmed willow or dogwood and cut them back each year for a fresh crop of stems. Bare-rooted trees do as well as container-grown ones and are cheaper.



Willow beauty: Chermesina

attractive plant for shaded places, with pretty whorls of leaves up slender stems. When made into a weak tisane it has the effect of cheering the spirits.

● The Chelsea Physic Garden, 66 Royal Hospital Road, London SW2 4HS (071-352 5646), has arranged a series of monthly lectures on culinary and medicinal plants between now and March. Mrs Claire Swann, 14 Ferncroft Avenue, London NW3 7PH.

WEEKEND TIPS

- Look for canker on fruit trees and cut the dark brown diseased wood back to clean wood.
- Prune established blackcurrant bushes if branches are crossed and overgrown, to reshape and stimulate new growth.
- Take 3-4in/8-10cm cuttings from periwinkle plants. Rooted in a cold frame, they should be ready to plant out in spring.
- Prune new growth on bush and repeat-flowering climbing roses by roughly a third, to reduce wind damage.

Alan Coren



Love thy neighbour, and may he go away

To the hack, environmental concern means only one thing. It means worrying about where his piece is going to end up and what it ends up there. For his is a competitive and insecure trade: his days are spent in the endless struggle to pass musier, his nights in the endless uncertainty about whether he has passed it. He has pumped his keyboard to what he hopes (fears?) was his best ability, he has dispatched those pumpings to the printer, and he now waits to see whether they stand up against those of his fellow-pumpers. Will his, when the page rumbles off the presses, be as reader-worthy as the pieces beside it, above it, below it?

It will thus come as no surprise to regulars that I have for the past few weeks been suffering as wretched a period as any in my long columnar career. Because regulars know where my past few pieces ended up. And while I cannot be sure where this piece is going to end up, I fear that there is every likelihood, on recent form, that it will once again find itself bang opposite The Times Christmas Gift Guide.

Which will kill it stone dead. For the guide is beyond question the most captivating page in the entire paper. It is up against its nostalgically snobbish, censored heading (O my Dandy and my Beano long ago), the most irresistibly laid out — a mouth-watering picnic of myriad tidbit mysteries, beguilingly teeming little boxes, weird ambiguous sketches, and thousands of words in print so tiny that the eyes are left rolling around like marbles in a saucer — it is also, when those words are at last deciphered, so rife with eccentricity, comedy and freebasing imponderability as to build up an inescapable image of the man behind the pen. I am not in the same league. I am redundant.

Because it is not only what is being huckstered which sets the reader's synapses twanging, it is the surreal hinterland the offers adumbrate. For the past few weeks the page has laid out its stall with everything from Champagne Balloon Flights to Super Dooper dog-dirt dispensers in luxury executive wallets, from inflatable female-torso barbecue aprons to windfall fruit-presses, from tandem skydiving lessons to stress-busting hurly plates, from made-to-measure trousers to soap cats which grow hair.

Who gives these things? Who receives them? What happens after they have been given and received? To those of us whose Yuletide is spent in passing mundane parcels of scent and books and gloves and booze, the world of those who shop the bustling columns opposite is a shifting kaleidoscope of unfathomable scenarios. How, to take only the least bizarre item, do you surprise someone with a pair of Wineberg's mail-order made-to-measure trousers? Do you, in early October, snatch his inside-leg and waistband dimensions by some furtive stratagem, do you steal a pair of trousers he already has and bung them off to Wineberg for copying, or does, perhaps, Wineberg himself come down from Leeds, or send a measuring minion, to waylay your earmarked recipient with some crafty subterfuge ("Excuse me, sir, we at Gallup are conducting a survey to determine the number of Britons who like their flannels roomy in the seat...")

And when you hand him his trousers and he thanks you, and he hands you in return your tandem skydiving lesson voucher from Acorne Air Sports, what then? This could well be something of a serious blow, whether or not you were hoping for a bottle of Jack Daniels and a Des O'Connor CD; not only do you not particularly want to fall out of an aircraft on Boxing Day, what is this tandem business, do you have to provide your own partner (if so you will be spending, at a guess, a fair amount of time on the blower), or does Acorne

provide a sidekick, a big drunk blonde, perhaps, a barmy old peer, a lonely char-show host, what kind of madman earns his living as a skydiving Siamese twin, do you really want to plummet through the clouds in his dubious embrace?

Apart from anything else, you may well have to negotiate Champagne Balloon Flights. To judge from the number of organisations offering these the past few Saturdays, the Yuletide welkin could be packed with them, their baskets lurching, their corks rattling, what chance would a skydiving novice have should a jetisoned magnesium strike his ear, that is for advanced candidates only, the startled beginner could find himself unable to keep a grip on the luxury executive wallet containing his new Super Dooper dog-dirt dispenser, and what would his dog do then?

What, indeed, had it done up till then, to encourage a loved one to think a dog-dirt dispenser was just what he wanted? Come to that, does Drivebond Engineering of Portlethen really mean dispenser? What kind of executive wants to dispense dog-dirt?

Possibly the kind who wears an inflatable barbecue apron, which, when blown up, provides him with a big bust and plump suspended thighs. You can never tell with people, I find. On reflection, mind, this would seem a sensible supplementary gift for the tyro skydiver, it might usefully cushion his fall after the champagne balloons binged their empties at him, he could thus be fit enough to stagger home, assemble his new Vigo Fruit Press, and start squashing windfalls for his hair-growing soap cat.

Whatever that is. Hawkin & Co of Norfolk do not say. They assume you know what a soap cat that grows hair is. Personally, if someone gave me one, I should proceed with caution. I should offer it a saucer of windfall juice, watch to see if it grew any hair, and if it didn't, I'd take it back and exchange for a stress-busting hurly plate. I do not know what this is, either, but as its Colchester manufacturers recommend it as ideal for pressured executives, I can only assume it offers some kind of comfort to poor sods who discover on Boxing Day morning that their nice new dog-dirt dispenser is on the blink.

I am not of their number. I don't want anything like that. I just want the Christmas Gift Guide to go away and let me have my readers back.

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THE TRICKS OF BRIDGE

By Colin Fox

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ARTS

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28 1992

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale reviews *Hay Fever* at the Albery and Jeremy Kingston on *Trilby* & *Svengali* at the Cockpit

Games of hits and Blisses

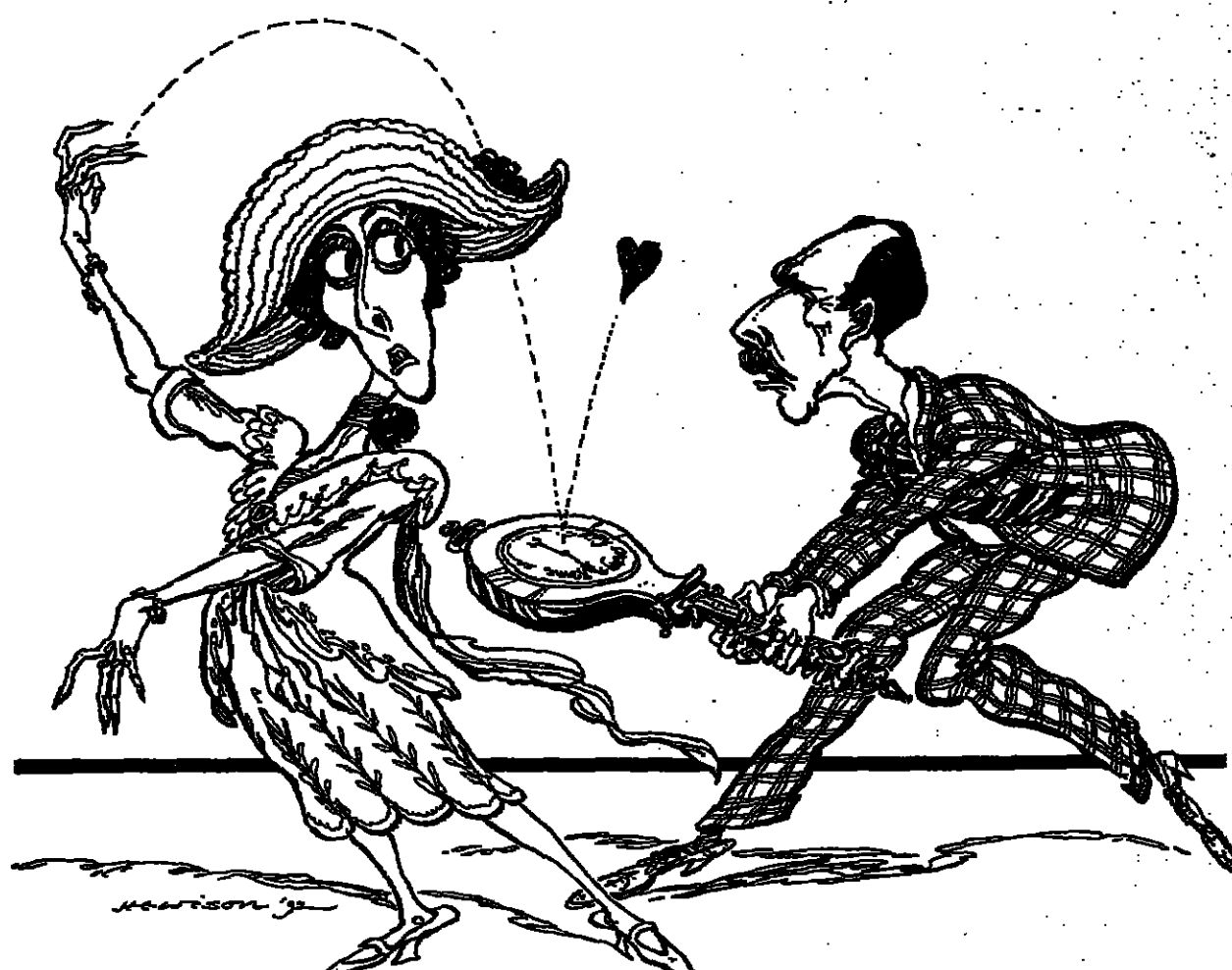
On the face of it, *Hay Fever* is an airy or, as an eminent academic once put it, a nothing. "Hardly moves further below the surface than a paper boat," wrote Allardyce Nicoll, doyen of theatre historians, of Noël Coward's work in general, "and is ever in imminent danger of becoming a shapeless sodden mass." After all, what happens? In act one, the guests that the four members of the Bliss family have several invited to stay get a rude welcome at their country house. In act two, they are confronted with an evening of games, insults and baffling histrionics. And in act three, they sneak away, unnoticed by their bickering hosts.

Yet *Hay Fever* was the play that definitively restored Coward's faltering reputation when it was staged by the National Theatre in 1964; and not just because it made the cognoscenti laugh or, as its author claimed, was "quite extraordinarily well constructed". More likely, it was because a fine cast, led by Edith Evans, established the Blisses (note that name) as the quintessential Coward creations they are: bright, self-absorbed, witty, fickle,

quarrelsome, and maddeningly attractive. Their visitors find them impossible, since they regard love and every other emotion as a diversion. They are frivolous people; and yet with them, as with many Coward characters, frivolity is a gesture of defiance aimed at a conventional world.

Hay Fever spoke for the 1920s and the 1960s — but what of the 1990s? Well, in Alan Strachan's production, the emphasis has tilted, probably too much. The play seems more about embarrassed guests than outrageous hosts. Neither John Standing's David Bliss, nor Abigail Crummen and Nick Waring as his children, make any great impact; and even Maria Aitken, playing David's actress wife Judith, seems somewhat downbeat at times.

Aitken looks wonderful, whether she is wearing a golden turban or a weird, moon-shaped gardening hat; she exudes languorous assurance; but I kept thinking of how Edith Evans at the National or Maggie Smith in Stratford, Ontario, must have handled their lines. "I have always dreamed of leaving the brittle glamour of cities and finding rest in some old-world nook..." "I don't know what I've

Anyone for a love game? Maria Aitken and Christopher Godwin in Coward's *Hay Fever*. Drawing by Bill Hewison

done to be cursed with such ungrateful children." "If you looked beneath my surface you'd find a very wistful and weary spirit." Aitken has her comically self-dramatising moments, more and more of them as the evening progresses; but she still misses opportunities to put invisible inverted commas round clichés and send up platitudes, as Coward's glitterati are duty-bound to do.

Curiously, the evening takes off in a scene Strachan has vastly elaborated, an afternoon tea in which the Blisses gorge themselves, licking their fingers or wiping them on the furniture, while one flummoxed visitor gets no more than a saucerful of soup and another nothing at all. And from then on the main source of laughter is the guests' attempts to sustain good manners while being confronted

with very unorthodox ones: the double-takes of Richard Garrett's fanned fool when his incautious kiss is mistaken for love; the stricken looks of Christopher Godwin's blimpish diplomat, as of a dignified camel who has wandered into a hornet's nest, when Judith melodramatically misinterprets a peck the same way. Funniest of all is Sara Crowe's insecure little flapper, trying desperately and some-

times tearfully to sustain her poise in a voice that sounds half like a strangled sob, half like a teddy-bear pressed in the tummy-button. Whatever the inadequacies of those playing the Blisses, she speaks for the victims of their narcissistic selfishness and aggressive bohemianism. And in the 1990s she is still someone whose dismay we can share.

B.N.

Look deeply into my vice

Gorge du Maurier's sensational novel, the first bestseller of modern times, gave two words to the English language. His scallywag heroine, "some-dead yet hypnotised into becoming a sublime singer, is immortalised as a felt hat, but Svengali is remembered for what he actually did. "One who exerts total mental control over another," is how the dictionary puts it, adding, "usually for evil ends."

This stage version for Shared Experience (at the Cockpit, Marylebone), by David Fielder and Nancy Meckler, presents the fierce ambition of Svengali, the egotism and power, in an electrifying performance by Teddy Kempner, but it shows him operating in a milieu more complex than the dictionary recognises.

We do not know how the Parisians in the Latin Quarter treat him, apart from tossing a few francs into his hat when he plays his pipe in the street, but to the three complacent Britishers studying art and low-life he is a dirty Jew.

Jew-baiting is uncomfortable enough to watch when set in Shakespeare's Venice, and is particularly disquieting to see here as Ritchie Madden's Taffy pulls Svengali's long nose, knocks him to the floor and behaves more like a caricature English gentleman than a Welshman. There is more verbal and physical abuse than I needed to understand Svengali's drive for achievement.

That said, Meckler's direction gives a brilliantly theatrical account of various kinds of obsession. On one level stands Little Elsie, a mother's dream of boyish ignorance — well caught by Dermot Kerrigan in his first professional role. He cannot stop thinking of Trilby and her beautiful bare feet. At the other extreme is Svengali, rhapsodising over her tongue, her glottis and the wonderful cavities behind her nose. This is one of several scenes where Kempner's amazing accent — High Middle Polish it sounds like ("I leave mai loff in mawic") — conveys an artist's reverence for his material and its potential. The sad fact for Trilby is that she can only achieve greatness when unconscious of what she is doing.

Her first singing lesson is staged as music therapy, ingeniously presented with Kempner snapping percussive comments at Trilby Blackwood's entranced Trilby. Where once she had the manners of a cheap slut, now she is a slave without a will.

Performed on a quarter-circle set of steps and doorways, capable of representing a variety of Paris rooms, the play is beautifully lit, and fragments of song and piano music weave beneath the speeches. All late Victorian life is here, from snobbery to squalor, male dominance to foot fetishism.

J.K.

Prince under a long white cloud

DANCE

Royal New Zealand Ballet
The Deragate
Northampton

THE New Zealanders, making their first visit to Britain with only five days at the Deragate, are not the Kirov. But coming from a country known mainly for sheep and rugby they could have been a great deal worse. In fact they left a favourable impression, aided by a version of *Hamlet*, created this year, which suited them to the core.

I make the point about *Hamlet* because in another ballet they looked less impressive. André Proklovsky and Galina Samsova's *Faust Divertissement*, a not unfamiliar classical showpiece which served as opener, revealed a physically attractive but technically uncertain company. Ou Lu, a guest from China's Central Ballet in the lead male role, was the exception: elegant and emphatic with neat finishes and a very respectable grasp of pyrotechnics.

William Southgate composed (and conducted) the score for *Hamlet*, having listened to thousands of pieces of medieval music for material. Yes, it does resemble a collage of records by the Early Music Consort of London, but it is always highly theatrical and

appropriate. The scenario devised by Jonathan Taylor allows musicians to appear on stage as part of the action; it also moves the plot along briskly. Taylor tells the story through dance, using it not as decorative icing, but as a deeply expressive and inventive medium. The *pas de deux* between *Hamlet* and Gertrude, for instance, manages wonderfully to convey the angry reproach as well as the love between them; just as *Hamlet*'s first solo, with its fragmented comings and goings, becomes an effective metaphor for his disarray.

The whole company dances with conviction. Eric Languet makes a youthful and complex *Hamlet*; Karin Wakefield a beautiful and interesting Gertrude; Anne Anderson as Ophelia is vital and disarming; and Jon Trimmer, as Claudius, darkly forceful, yet also anxious.

Allan Lees's designs seem practical without being skimpy, presenting attractive costumes and movable stone structures that provide the setting throughout.

NADINE MEISNER

Famous names but mixed success for some film and TV soundtracks

Raucous Houston taxes

ROCK RECORDS

What an unloved creature the original soundtrack album is. Not a "proper" album and only, at best, an incomplete memento of the film, it is neither fish nor fowl. If, as is often the case, it features songs by several acts, then it will be disqualified from the "real" album chart and relegated instead to the statistical ghetto of the compilation charts.

Such is the fate which has befallen the soundtrack of *The Bodyguard*, the film starring Whitney Houston and Kevin Costner which goes on release in Britain on December 26. The album (Arista 07822 18699 2) is out now, featuring six new recordings by Houston along with numbers by Lisa Stansfield, Joe Cocker, Kenny G and others.

One can only hope that Houston's debut performance as an actor is not as overwrought as her singing on this disc. Her vocal technique is phenomenal, her tone so strong it verges on the raucous, but, rather like those heavy metal guitarists for whom any hint of an instrumental break is an excuse to go soaring off into the stratosphere, she lacks a self-edit facility.

After the hit single "I Will Always Love You" she tramples over the Ashford and Simpson song "I'm Every-

Heavy: Whitney Houston stars and sings in *The Bodyguard*

Woman", eventually arriving at the truly awful "Jesus Loves Me" ("for the bible tells me so", etc.).

After this she hands over to her supporting cast, and suddenly the highly strung mood gives way to the warm, dulcet tones of Aaron Neville singing "Even If My Heart Would Break". The contrast could not

be more pronounced, although it is actually Curtis Stigers who contributes the best track on the album, a cracking soul revue version of "What's So Funny 'Bout Peace, Love and Understanding".

Where the soundtrack can come into its own is in providing a focused outlet for some of

rock's most gifted instrumentalists. Ry Cooder, Eric Clapton and Richard Thompson are among those who have benefited in this way, but the makers of the film *Frankie's House* have achieved their greatest coup by tempting Jeff Beck, that most indolent of rock guitar talents, to break cover.

Working in tandem with keyboard player Jed Leiber on the soundtrack (Epic 472494 2), Beck conjures eerie soundscapes of pin-sharp clarity which faithfully evoke the mood of titles like "Thailand", "Sniper", "Patrol" and "Apocalypse". The mood alternates between ghostly calm and riotous frenzy, but the most extraordinary thing about the album is the phenomenally rich drum sound, which we are asked to believe that Leiber conjured from a keyboard.

It was the soundtrack to *The Cels*, a 1987 BBC television series which launched Enya's remarkable career, and the album of the same name (WEA 4509-91167-2) has now been reclaimed from the archives, remastered and re-released with new artwork and explanatory sleeve notes. Lovers of Enya's gently drifting musical mosaics will not be disappointed.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Brass and bombast

JAZZ RECORDS

THAT man Kenon. The very mention

of his name still provokes hurries of impassioned essays, all arguing over his true worth. To his admirers, many of whom attended a convention in the Midlands this month, he represents the ultimate in orchestral sophistication — or "progressive jazz", as he preferred to call it. For many others Stan Kenon will be remembered as a bombastic self-publicist.

Much of the evidence for both prosecution and defence is assembled on *Retrospective* (Capitol Jazz CDP7-97350), a four-disc set which covers Kenon's output over a quarter of a century, starting with the 1943 hit "Artistry in Rhythm". That self-conscious "Artistry" motif would recur again and again — "Artistry in Boogie", "Artistry in Bolero" — to the point where one disgruntled critic riposted with "Artistry in Limbo".

Despite its lavish documentation, the compilation is not

likely to win over many of the un-

convinced. No one would begrudge him the credit for promoting new talent — Stan Getz was one of the many young players to pass through his band — or for seeking out new fusions of jazz and classical forms. Yet apart from some of the earlier workouts, the result is pseudo-symphonic kitsch.

The boxed sets are beginning to pile up in preparation for Christmas. Like Kenon, Oscar Peterson gets the multi-disc treatment on *Exclusively For My Friends* (MPS 513830), a re-issued collection of recitals taken between 1963 and 1968 at the villa of the German impresario Hans Georg Brunner-Schwer. The trio and solo performances, which have attained almost cult status over the years, are exceptionally well-recorded and dispatched, as ever, with ruthless efficiency.

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NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC SOCIETIES
YOUNG ARTISTS FESTIVAL 1992

PURCELL ROOM
South Bank Centre

Esso
Sponsored by Esso UK plc

Tuesday 1 December
ANTHONY PIKE clarinet
Winner 1990 NFMS/Esso Award
Michael Dussek piano
Finz, Welez, Reger, Stravinsky, Saint-Saens, Cossetto, Francaix

Tuesday 8 December
NFMS/Esso Award 1992
Artists Platform
introduced by PETER KATIN
ERYL LLOYD WILLIAMS
JAMES KIRBY
ANTHONY HEWITT

Monday 7 December
MARY PLAZAS soprano
Winner 1989 NFMS/Esso Award
Winner Ferner Award 1991
Catherine Edwards piano
Britten, Hughes (premiere), Rodrigo, Obradors and others

Wednesday 9 December
SEBASTIAN HESS cello
Catherine Edwards piano
Beethoven, Schittke, Brahms

Concerts start at 8pm

Tickets £8, £5 (Concessions £5). Series offer available.
Box Office 071-928 8800.

GUILD FOLK CHORAL SOCIETY
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
"A Christmas Cantata"
HOLBY-HUTCHINSON CAROL SYMPHONY
SINGERS
GUILD FOLK CHORAL SOCIETY
Conductor: HILARY DAVEN WETTON
SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER, 1992 at 7.30 PM
Admission: £12.00, £8.00 and £5.00 (Students £5.00)
Available from: Guildford Choral Society
Telephone: 01252 21189 or 01252 21189
Fax: 01252 21189

ART FOR CHRISTMAS
Paintings and Sculpture
by Twenty Contemporary Artists
£200-250.00
OPEN TODAY 11-5pm
THE BRITON STREET GALLERY
25 BRITON STREET, LONDON W1W 7BE
Tel: 071-928 8800

WESTMINSTER ANTIQUES FAIR
Royal Horticultural Hall, Vincent Sq. S.W.1
December 3 - 6
Thurs & Fri 11-8, Sat 11-6, Sun 11-5
50 Stands, all Vetted for Authenticity
Victorian Christmas Room sets
Penman Antiques Fairs 071 351 9152

BARBICAN CELEBRITY RECITAL
MONDAY 30 NOVEMBER 7.30PM
YURI BASHMET viola
MIKHAIL MUNTIAN piano
MARIAIS Suite in D Minor
BRAHMS Sonatas, Op. 10 Nos. 1 & 2
BRITTEN Lachrymae
Tickets £14.10 & £6
BARBICAN HALL 071 638 8891 (9-8 DAILY)

CINEMAS

GUINON MAYFAIR Current
S. 071 481 9313 (open 10am to 10pm daily)

THE WOMAN IN BLACK
Directed by Nicholas...
S. 071 481 9313 (open 10am to 10pm daily)

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ALDWYCH ROYAL 071 928 8800
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LYRIC Shaftesbury Ave. S. & C. 071 481 9313
S. 071 481 9313 (open 10am to 10pm daily)

FIVE GUYS
The Great American Musical
S. 071 481 9313 (open 10am to 10pm daily)

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ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE, SW1
TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER 7.30 PM
SIR CHARLES GROVES MEMORIAL CONCERT
Lindsay String Quartet & Patrick Ireland
Haydn - Schubert - Mozart
(£20, £15, £10, £5 Box Office 071-222 1061)

ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE, SW1
THURSDAY 10 DEC 7.30 PM
A concert to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Anglo-American Music Society

ACADEMY OF LONDON
RICHARD STAMP conductor
ERWIN NAGY piano - WOLFGANG SCHULZ flute
(Principal Flute of the Vienna Philharmonic)

HAYDN Overture L'infedeltà Delusa
MOZART Piano Concerto K467; Flute Concerto K313
DVORAK Serenade for Strings Op. 22
(£12, £8, £5, £4 Box Office 071-222 1061)

WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER 7.30 pm
Westminster Central Hall
Storey's Gate, London SW1
Organist: Westminster Abbey (organist: St James' Park & Westminster)

Final concert in BEETHOVEN SYMPHONY SERIES
JOHN ELIOT GARDINER
Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique
CORIOLAN OVERTURE
SYMPHONIES No. 8 & No. 7
Concert sponsored by British Telecommunications plc
(£10, £5 (unreserved) Ticketmaster (24hr) 071-379 4444)

BARBICAN HALL
071-928 8800 (open 10am to 10pm daily)

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ART GALLERIES

Exhibition of New Paintings by KALI MARQUARDT
23 Nov - 4 Dec
at **ANTHONY THOMPSON**
5 Hillgate Street, W8
071-221 5072
Open 10-7 every day

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